

THE TIMES

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MONDAY NOVEMBER 4 1996

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FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND THE DIRECTORY,
THE GUIDE TO TV, RADIO AND ENTERTAINMENT

Blair puts the family at Labour's policy heart

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR promises today that he will not be driven off the new morality agenda dominating British politics, and that he will put promotion of "strong families" at the heart of Labour policy-making.

Writing in *The Times*, the Labour leader makes clear that he will resist Conservative attempts to concentrate public debate on the economy, and he denies that his party is leaping on to the morality bandwagon.

Confirmation that Mr Blair is intent on pursuing the morality agenda will further irritate John Major, whose relations with the Labour leader are at a low ebb. The Prime Minister has privately attacked Mr Blair's "sanctimonious" approach to the morality issue and is even reported to have likened him to Elmer Gantry, the fictional fire-and-brimstone evangelist who turned out to be a charlatan and used his talent for preaching to his own ends.

But in his article today, Mr Blair defends his approach and insists that Labour is not trying to govern private social morality. He says that the idea of a new social morality is not a lurch into nostalgia or Victorian hypocrisy. We do not want to return to prejudiced attitudes on sex, sexuality or the role of women. Neither do we believe that supporting the family means attacking lone parents, the vast bulk of whom

key theme of the Queen's Speech. Now it is dropped. And they accuse us of being cynical and driven by polls."

Labour election strategists decided last week to continue harrying the Government on issues that in the past it has numbered among its strengths. They are desperately seeking an issue on which the Opposition parties can unite against the Government, whose Commons majority fell to one yesterday after the death from cancer of Barry Porter, who had a majority of 8,183 as MP for Wirral South.

The Government's majority is expected to be wiped out next month after a by-election at Labour-held Barnsley East, and it would go into minority for the first time in nearly 18 consecutive years of office if it loses the Wirral by-election, expected in February.

The Labour leader's article appears as Conservative sources confirmed that relations between Mr Blair and Mr Major are at a low ebb — although officials in Mr Blair's office denied that he had any complaint about the way he had been treated.

The *Times* has learnt that they began to break down after Mr Blair mocked Mr Major in the Commons over a defeat on the Divorce Bill earlier this year, even though Mr Major had granted a free vote to Conservative MPs.

They came close to freezing point after the Dunblane tragedy with Mr Major accusing Mr Blair privately of breaking an agreement not to highlight the Dunblane issue during the party conference season. And when asked for his opinion of the Labour leader on a visit to the Commons tea-room, Mr Major is reported to have replied that he reminded him of Elmer Gantry.

Mr Blair is expected to receive a further boost after his soaring opinion poll ratings today when his party is expected to back his modernising draft manifesto by a ratio of nine to one.

It is understood that more than half of Labour members took part in the vote, many more than were expected to a few weeks ago, and Mr Blair will hail the result as an unhesitating endorsement of the aims and objectives of new Labour.

In his *Times* article, Mr Blair describes the document as "our covenant with the British people and our covenant with ourselves" which affirms the belief that it is possible to forge a new political programme by stripping away outmoded ideology and applying traditional values in a modern way.

He insists that the document was not just about accommodating the thinking of the Right, but a recognition "that we have entered a new phase of political debate and development".

Mr Blair and his deputy, John Prescott, had to make strong last-minute appeals to members to vote on the document, but even so, the leadership will point out that the vote was higher than that in the ballot on Clause 4 of Labour's constitution.

Elmer Gantry, page 2
Lawrence support, page 7
Peter Riddell, page 22

Firework ban urged as two die

By Adrian Lee

IAN LANG was last night under pressure from safety campaigners to introduce new laws banning giant fireworks after two deaths at weekend bonfire parties.

The president of the Board of Trade was already considering the need for stronger safety laws to be in force by next November after a 90 per cent increase in fireworks injuries over the past five years.

Campaigners demanded the ban on "super" fireworks, weighing up to 100lb, after a father died in front

of his two sons in Dartford, Kent, when a Chinese firework intended for professional use only exploded in his face.

Mr Lang also faced calls for all those running public displays to be licensed and receive training after the death on Saturday of David Hattersley, a head teacher who was running a primary school event.

Critics said British firework laws were outdated and some Chinese fireworks available in Britain would be banned in their country of origin. According to the National Campaign for Firework Safety,

some weigh up to 100lb and are packed with explosives.

Labour called for a ban on mortar-type fireworks which were responsible for the deaths of Mr Hattersley in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, and Steve Timcke, in Kent.

A third man was injured by a firework at Marlborough, Wiltshire. Mortar fireworks are designed to be fired from a cardboard tube and shoot coloured lights into the air.

Children see deaths, page 3



Daniel Visnik, a diver with the archaeological team, holds the stone head of a queen of the Ptolemaic dynasty

Cleopatra's playground revealed

FROM MICHAEL MURPHY
IN ALEXANDRIA

THE royal playground of Cleopatra and Mark Antony in ancient Alexandria has been found by a French marine archaeologist after nearly 2,000 years.

"It was a fantastic feeling diving on the remains of the city," said Franck Goddio at the unveiling of his work yesterday. "To think when I touched a statue or sphinx, that Cleopatra herself might have done the same..."

M Goddio, 49, Director of the European Institute of Marine Archaeology in Paris, whose team of 16 professional divers and archaeologists has made more than 3,500 dives in the murky waters of Alexandria's Eastern Harbour, has produced staggeringly detailed evidence for the plan of the "royal city" which has long puzzled historians.

Today the easternmost of the twin harbours of Alexandria is a placid and featureless stretch of water, bounded to east and west by a military

strongpoint and the high rise blocks of flats of the former Turkish quarter, and to the south by the coastal road.

But M Goddio and his team, backed by the Egyptian Supreme Council for Antiquities and financed by the Hilti Foundation of Liechtenstein, has used the most up-to-date technology including satellite measuring to pinpoint the tumbled stones and architectural features about 20ft below the present surface. Many finds such as columns, statues, enormous blocks of gran-

ite, amphorae, sphinxes and pavements, bear testimony to the importance of the royal city's palaces and temples.

M Goddio's work bears out remarkably the description of the Greek historian Strabo, who wrote a detailed study of the area in 25BC. At that time he was working in the legendary Library of Alexandria, just six years after the naval battle of Actium, in which Octavian defeated the combined forces of Antony and Cleopatra who became the last Pharaoh of an

Continued on page 2, col 1

ZAIRE

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Massive data bank will store all personal details



Heseltine conceived plan to put government on line

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

PLANS for a £1 billion computer scheme to centralize personal records on every citizen are to be unveiled this week.

The computer would hold everything from birth certificates and tax returns to social security numbers and TV licence details. New technology would also make public services available direct in homes and from special terminals at post offices, libraries and Citizens Advice Bureaux.

People would be able to complete tax returns, VAT declarations, buy a motor tax disc and even inform government agencies if they have

changed address. The move to put the Government on line was conceived by Michael Heseltine, the deputy Prime Minister, a year ago and will be formally outlined in a Green Paper entitled "Government Direct" on Wednesday. Pilot terminals, allowing the public to call up information, are to be sited in 12 regional centres. The law would have to be changed to allow government departments could share certain personal information about individuals.

Last night Roger Freeman, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said: "The challenge is to transform public services in this country. We had the introduction of the Post Office in the 19th century

which revolutionised government services. This century we have had the phone and the typewriter. In the 21st century we will see the rise of information technology which will be the main driver for producing better quality services. We are looking at a revolution."

Ministers envisage that within a year people could be able to call up information and government forms via their television. If they have a printer attached to their computer they could receive an actual form.

The key to the scheme will be for members of the public to be issued with a smartcard to ensure their personal and business details cannot be divulged to anyone else. A

smartcard will be crucial for verifying transactions, especially if payments are involved. It could be linked with a personal banker's card and could also carry donor information and blood group. Eventually, it is possible it could link up with the new national identity and driving licence card.

Mr Freeman said last night that he hoped that eventually they would merge to form a single card. But he cautioned: "I don't think the Government should be dogmatic about this, it is about people's choice."

But Ministers want to consult the public on how best privacy can be guaranteed and want an on-the-spot guarantee that the card is

being used by the rightful owner. Mr Freeman said: "We must ensure privacy and the Data Protection Registrar will have a big role to play. The law must protect every citizen to ensure the information is used carefully."

One idea is for a Personal Identification Number, but other countries have used fingerprints, while a new scheme for frequent travellers at JFK airport in New York uses a handprint. Another possibility is for the computer to check out the pattern of an eye.

If someone were using their own home telephone number to call up information, that alone could be taken as security. But the aim is to ask the public what information

they want on line, and to ensure that it is easy to find and understand.

The computer software and hardware and the cards would be provided by private capital under the Private Finance Initiative. Ministers accept the project could cost up to £1 billion but believe the final efficiency savings could be much greater.

The Government will pay back the private firms as the handling of paper transactions in Whitehall is reduced and the number of clerical posts is cut. Mr Freeman accepted there would be a loss of repetitive, manual, clerical jobs but believed staff would be liberated to do different jobs.

Corporal punishment lobby banks on opinion polls to persuade Major

Tory right forces pace on caning

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JOHN O'LEARY

TORY rightwingers pledged to step up the campaign for corporal punishment in state schools yesterday after support from opinion polls and growing signs that individual ministers back the move.

James Fawcett, chairman of the backbench Tory education committee, called on the Prime Minister to reconsider his opposition to the issue being reopened. Eight members of the present Cabinet, including Mr Major, backed the retention of corporal punishment when it was last debated in the Commons in 1986 and rightwingers are claiming that there would still be a big Cabinet majority in favour now if Mr Major had not ruled out a change.

The 1986 Cabinet supporters included Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke, Michael Howard — who on Friday indicated his continued backing — Stephen Dorrell, Roger Freeman, Brian Mawhinney, and Virginia Bottomley.

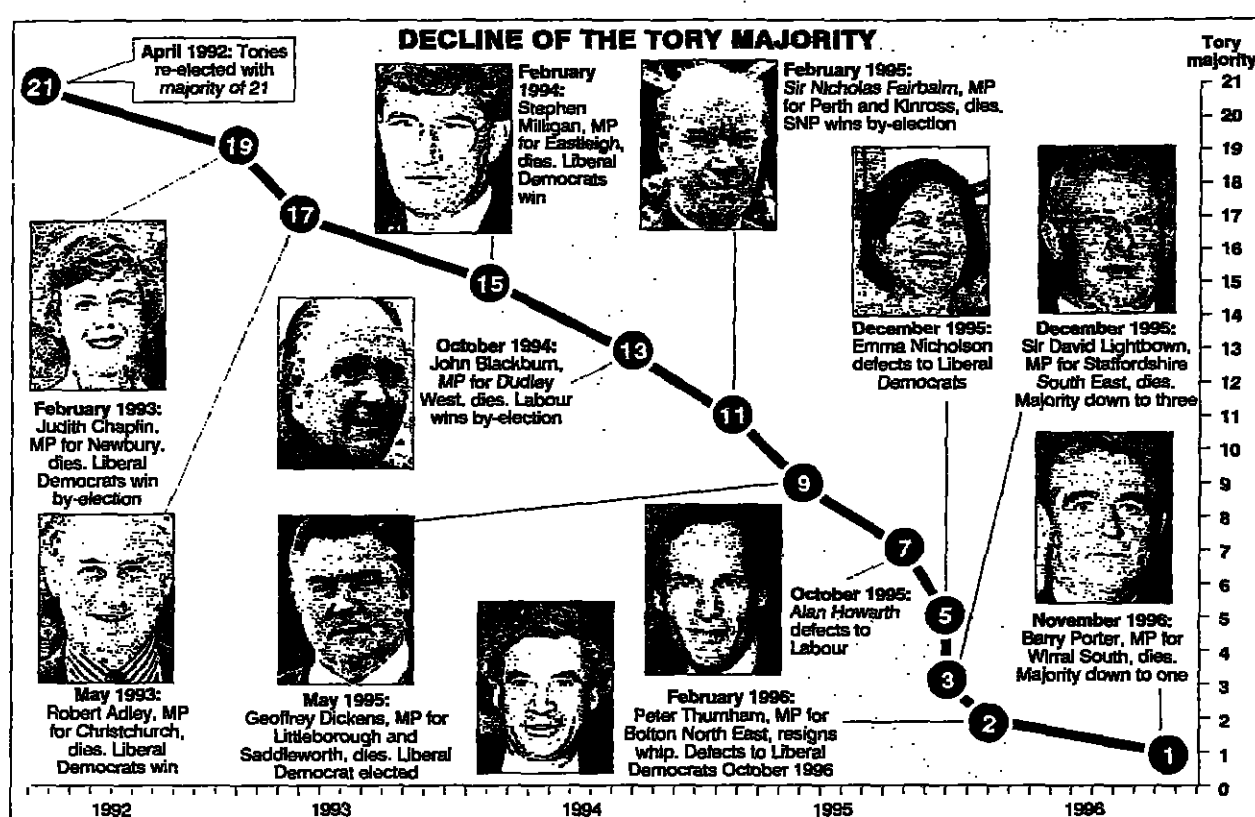
Gillian Shepherd, the Education secretary, backed the idea last week but was swiftly slapped down by Mr Major. Ministers in Mrs Shepherd's department are known to support her private view. There have been indications that

other ministers, including William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, are supporters of the move, although Mr Hague yesterday repeated the Downing Street policy line.

Mr Fawcett believes that a head of steam is building up behind his campaign to allow parents to give their consent to caning, as an alternative to expulsion. He said: "The Prime Minister weighs matters up carefully and I believe that if the Prime Minister were to see there was a substantial or overwhelming case in favour, then he might reconsider."

Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the backbench 1922 committee, took the unusual move of voicing his personal support for caning, although he did not expect it to become part of the current Bill. "If schools want the sanction of the cane, then I make no secret of the fact that I support that."

Mrs Shepherd backed calls for school governors to clamp down on scruffy teachers, but ruled out legislation for a national dress code. David Shaw, the Tory MP for Dover, is planning an amendment to the Education Bill requiring governors to lay down dress rules for staff.



Death could put Tories in minority

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Government's Commons majority, 21 at the 1992 general election, is expected to be wiped out after the death yesterday of Barry Porter, MP for Wirral South, after a short period of illness.

With May still the most likely date for the general election, Labour and Conservative business managers were last night predicting a by-election early in the new year for Mr Porter's seat. If Labour overturns the 8,183 majority, there would be a minority government. Mr Porter's

death means that the Government's majority drops to one. Labour are confidently expected to win the pending by-election at Barnsley East, which would leave it without a majority. A Labour victory at Wirral South would mean the Government was in a minority of one.

John Major led the tributes yesterday to Mr Porter, 57, who was married with five children. "Barry's generous heart and good humour will be much missed at Westminster and in the Wirral," he said. "He served both his constituents and country well."

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party

chairman, said: "Barry had a first-class reputation for both his constituency work and in the chamber of the House of Commons." Alastair Goodlad, the Chief Whip, added: "Barry Porter was a hard-working member of Parliament and a much liked and respected colleague."

Labour campaign strategists said last night that they expected the by-election in February. They would need a swing of more than 8 per cent to take the seat. The Tories have not won a by-election in the present Parliament and, barring a swift change in the public mood, cannot be confident about changing the trend.

Hume acts as broker in hope of ceasefire

By NICHOLAS WATT

JOHN HUME, the leader of the SDLP, is acting as an intermediary between the British Government and Sinn Féin to negotiate terms for a renewed IRA ceasefire.

The MP for Foyle has been shuttling between the two sides in the hope of brokering an agreement over the conditions Sinn Féin would have to meet before it could join the Stormont talks. Mr Hume, who confirmed yesterday that he is in regular contact with the Government and with Gerry Adams, said he was optimistic that an agreement could be found.

John Major has made clear that Sinn Féin could only join the multi-party talks if the IRA renewed its ceasefire and then offered clear evidence of its unambiguous commitment to peace. The IRA would also have to decommission some of its weapons during the talks.

Sinn Féin believes that it should be allowed into the talks within days of a ceasefire. The party also insists that a ceasefire will only be declared if Britain softens its stance on the weapons issue and sets a timeframe for talks of no more than six months.

Despite the differences between Britain and Sinn Féin, there are indications that Mr Hume's intensive negotiations are making some progress. The Dublin Sunday Tribune reported yesterday that Britain has accepted that the IRA cannot use the word "permanent" in a ceasefire statement. The three sides yesterday all played down reports of the negotiations.

Ronnie Flanagan, who takes over today as Chief Constable of the RUC, made clear yesterday that he wants to achieve "a totally neutral working environment" to attract more Roman Catholics. This may mean reducing the use of the Union flag and the Queen's portrait.

Shooters condemn gun laws

The shooting community turned their anger on Parliament yesterday and warned the Government against adding their families to the list of victims of the Dubliner shootings.

About 3,000 shooters and gun traders from around Britain were at Wolverhampton race course to protest at the proposed gun legislation announced last week after Lord Cullen's inquiry into the shooting at Dunblane where 16 children and their teacher were murdered. The rally was led by members of the British Shooting Sports Council, which represents about 500,000 enthusiasts.

Currency deal

The Liberal Democrat leadership warned Labour that signing up to a simple currency would be a condition for support in any deal after the general election. Menzies Campbell, foreign affairs spokesman, made the party's most explicit demand on Labour after signals from the Labour leadership that it was moving away from a decision to join the first members of a single currency in 1999.

Kidnap charges

Two men were charged last night with the kidnap and unlawful imprisonment of Joanne Norris, 30, a secretary who disappeared from her home in Knebworth, Hertfordshire. Police said that a woman claiming to be Ms Norris had called her family from abroad to say that she was safe. She was forced from her home after being bound and blindfolded on Friday night.

Princess ends trip

Diana, Princess of Wales, ended her trip to Australia yesterday with a private visit to the quadriplegic son of a friend, Ben Robertson, 18, who was crippled in an accident while playing a school rugby match. He is the son of a former equestrian to the Prince of Wales. Captain Brian Robertson looked after the Prince and Princess during their official tour to Australia in 1985.

I don't believe it

The actor Richard Wilson — who plays Victor Meldrew in *One Foot in the Grave* — had car trouble before the London to Brighton Veteran Car Rally. The car broke down on the 1900 Simms in which he was supposed to be travelling. He was given a lift in another car. The first car to arrive was an 1898 Panhard at Levensor driven by Mike Timmins of East Sussex. Photograph, page 26

Elmer Gantry jibe is proof that all is not well in Westminster

By RUTH GLEDHILL

RELATIONS between Tony Blair and John Major have hit rock bottom, according to Conservative sources. Asked for his opinion of the Labour leader on a visit to the Commons tea-room Mr Major is reported to have replied that Mr Blair reminded him of Elmer

Gantry. If proof were needed that all is not well between the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition, this was it. The eponymous Elmer Gantry, a fictional 1920s American evangelist, was the central figure of a film released in 1960, based on a satirical novel by Nobel-prize winner Sinclair Lewis, in which he explored the seedier

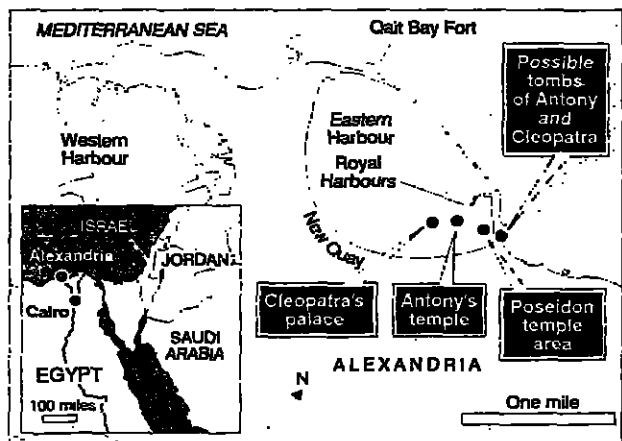
side of the evangelical revival which had taken America by storm. Gantry emerges as an immoral Bible-thumper who is the opposite of what he claims to be. Using his talent for oratory, he jumps on the 1920s moral crusading bandwagon and becomes an evangelist and preacher, although behind his eloquent Christian front he behaves in

an unscrupulous fashion designed purely to serve his own end, destroying at the same time as he preaches salvation.

Burt Lancaster played the lead as Gantry, but some fans believe the picture was stolen by Jean Simmons, with her portrayal of the compelling Sister Sharon Falconer, the leader of a religious revival-

ist group. Gantry, a hard-drinking, promiscuous salesman who uses prostitutes, at one point describes Christ as "the best all-American quarterback in history". Taking more literally than most the text "love thy neighbour", his aim is to seduce St Sharon, who employs him as a preacher, and he nearly destroys her mission in his attempt.

Antony and Cleopatra's Alexandrian playground revealed



Continued from page 1
independent Egypt. Strabo wrote of inner harbours for the royal vessels, "hidden from people and made by the hand of man". That has long puzzled historians, but M Goddio's divers found a 10ft-high pier of limestone extending 350 yards north and west of the eastern promontory, still paved with limestone blocks and encircling an area of sheltered water: a shorter pier marks out an inner sanctuary. The walls can safely be dated to Ptolemaic rather than Roman times because the mortar is grey rather than red. The Romans mixed burnt brick with the mortar for extra waterproofing.

Farther south is a former island which once held the temple of Poseidon, god of the sea, and a limestone quay carried the

Timoneum, shrine and palace of Mark Antony, facing that of Cleopatra.

Strabo's description of Antirrhodos, the island on which Cleopatra built her palace, misled M Goddio to search in mid-harbour, but the areas he found there proved to be no more than ancient reefs. When he moved south, however, he found a paved island, 350 yards long and 60 yards wide, littered with fallen columns and architectural features, some of them carved with hieroglyphs. He knew, although the ancient planners had put the island farther west, that he had found "a very impressive building surrounded by columns of rare and unusual stone": Cleopatra's palace.

Few remains of buildings on the shore survive, although M Goddio has an

inkling that the tombs of Antony and Cleopatra may be found in that area one day. Instead, most of the royal buildings lie fallen just off the present seashore barely disturbed since they were brought down in an earthquake in AD335 and drowned in the succeeding tidal wave. Among those remains were once Cleopatra's Needles, which have now found homes on the London Embankment and in New York.

M Goddio said of his work: "We tried a sound survey first, but the background noise from the modern city was too great to get accurate readings. The only way was to make exhaustive dives, metre by metre. And that way we were able to pinpoint exactly where Cleopatra and Antony once walked."



Elizabeth Taylor, star of the film Cleopatra

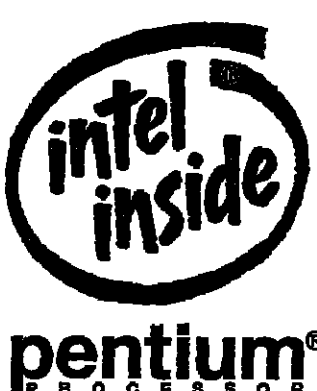
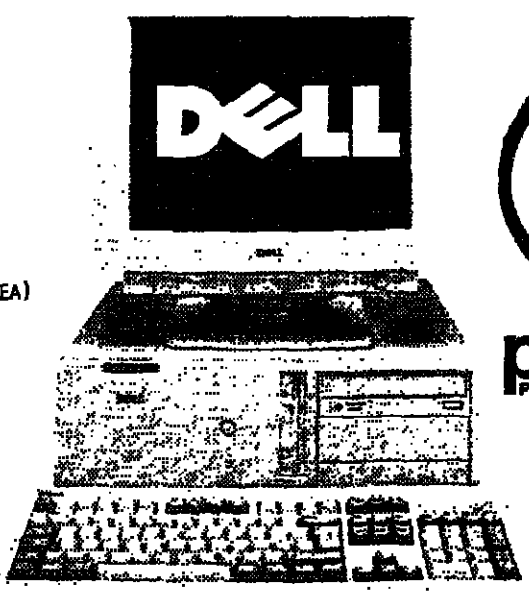
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Chinese 'grenade' meant for public display explodes in garden, claiming second victim of weekend

Safety officers to trace source of fatal firework

REPORTS BY ADRIAN LEE

A CITY trader became the second man to die in a firework accident at the weekend when a device intended only for professional use at a public display exploded in his back garden.

Steve Timcke, 34, died almost instantly when he lit a Chinese firework in the back garden of his house in Wilmington, Dartford, Kent. It is thought his two children, Shaun and Danny, both aged under ten, saw the explosion along with 40 other people. Mr Timcke's widow, Denise, is on holiday in America.

The widow of David Hattersley, 45, a father of six, who died on Saturday after running his primary school's display in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, paid tribute to him yesterday after attending a church service.

In a third incident, Richard Nocton, in his 30s, was knocked unconscious by a rocket and suffered burns to his face as he organised a display at Marlborough, Wiltshire. His injuries were last night said to be not life-threatening.

Trading standards officers in Kent were trying to establish yesterday how Mr Timcke bought the grenade-shaped firework, called a Grand Cele-



Killed: head teacher David Hattersley

bration. They warned other people not to use the firework, which had safety instructions written in Chinese down its side. Mr Timcke was apparently lighting the firework when it detonated in a blue flash. John Simmonds, Kent's head of trading standards, said: "We are investigating where this man got it from. It is the type of firework that should be fired from a mortar tube and should be used only in big displays such as those organised by local authorities. We think that in this case the man used a match to light it. It is not for general distribution."

It should only be sold to professionals. These are not the sort of fireworks for gardens. It is an area which is under investigation by the Government."

Other fireworks found at the scene weighed between three and four pounds and were being checked. Neighbours described Mr Timcke as a hard-working family man who had recently returned from a business trip abroad. His wife was said to be in New York buying Christmas presents. Their two children were watching the display on Saturday night from the safety of a balcony overlooking the garden.

One neighbour, Eileen Charnier, said: "Steve was one of those city whizz-kids. He was really friendly and outgoing. A really nice neighbour. He worked so hard for that house - it was his dream home. He loved those kids so much. This is an appalling tragedy."

Mr Hattersley's widow Ruth joined 350 people at Holy Trinity Church, High Wycombe. He was fatally injured when he returned to a large mortar-type firework. She said: "All that can be said is that he was a very, very special man, a very special husband and father. I did not realise how much his life had touched so many people."

Her husband was head of Hazlemere Church of England Combined School in High Wycombe and had organised firework displays for 12 years. During the church service some worshippers cried openly as the Reverend Clive Collier spoke of Mr Hattersley's commitment to the school. The Archbishop of Canterbury sent a message of sympathy.

The service was attended by the couple's six children: Rebecca, 21, a student at Oxford; Judith, 19, a student at Bath; Philippa, 18, who is working at the church; Andrea, 17, a drama student; Eleanor, 12, and Ben, 7, who is a pupil at Mr Hattersley's school.



Ruth Hattersley and her son Ben, seven. She said she did not realise how much his life had touched so many

Amateurs warned off giant rockets

PEOPLE planning garden firework parties were warned yesterday not to compromise safety by trying to detonate spectacular fireworks intended for public displays.

Safety experts said that the general public should buy only fireworks stamped with the British Standards number 7114 and carrying a classification between one and three - although three should not be used in gardens. Category one fireworks are suitable for indoor use; category two for gardens; category three for displays where there is at least 25 metres between firework and audience.

A fourth category, designed for professional use only, does not have to adhere to British Standards. It is assumed the user will have some expertise and the instructions may not be in English.

Trading standards groups, responsible for enforcing safety after fireworks are imported, want a licensing system for people running displays. One of Brit-

Readers are reminded that, contrary to any implication in an article in the Gardening section of Saturday's Weekend, petrol should never be used on bonfires.

ain's last remaining firework makers, the Reverend Ronald Lancaster, 65, of Kimbolton Fireworks, called for shops to be banned from selling the new type of giant firework to the public.

Mr Lancaster, whose company is thought to have supplied the firework that killed Mr Hattersley, said a code of practice for retailers was needed to curb the mounting casualties.

The retired chemistry teacher said: "There has been an upsurge in recent times in the selling of large imported fireworks. A lot of us in the trade have been anxious to have agreement on maximum sizes that should be sold to the

public." He will be interviewed by the Health and Safety Executive today but said there had been no previous problems with his fireworks.

This year Britons will detonate 130 million fireworks of 26,000 different types. Most will be imported.

The most popular include German-made Zink rockets, costing up to £9 each; mortar-type "shells" which are detonated at 400 miles per hour and burst with crackers or colours at 400 ft and roman candle barrages which shoot 100 ft into the air before producing a cascade of coloured stars.

In 1990, 805 people were injured by fireworks; in 1991 there were 723 injuries; in 1992 the figure was 942; in 1993, the year of deregulation, there were 1,058 injuries. Casualties jumped to 1,574 in 1994, the highest for 20 years, and last year there were 1,530 injuries. Between 1989 and 1993 there were no deaths. In 1994 there were two but none last year.

Dunkirk saviour faces a fiery end

By MICHAEL EVANS

ONE of the boats that played a significant part in the evacuation of British troops from Dunkirk in June 1940 is facing an ignominious end on a Guy Fawkes bonfire tomorrow.

The 51ft ferry boat *Southern Queen* joined the armada of little boats that helped to rescue more than 340,000 British and French soldiers from the advancing German army. The *Southern Queen* retrieved more than 1,000 men from the Dunkirk beaches, under fire from German bombers and fighter aircraft.

Now the boat is due to be towed to Portlone beach on the Isles of Scilly to form the centrepiece of tomorrow's Guy Fawkes bonfire celebrations. The beach where she is destined to burn is owned by Prince Charles.

The Dunkirk Association, upset at the fate of one of the few remaining veterans of the rescue, is now trying to save the boat. Charles Cave, association spokesman, said: "This boat saved so many lives. It would be a terrible shame and a valuable piece of history will be lost forever."

The bonfire party is being organised by the Round Table in St Mary's. More than 600 people are expected to attend.

The 70-year-old *Southern Queen* has been abandoned for two years. Alec Hicks, 34, the owner, who has used the boat as a ferry for tourists, found it impossible to upgrade her to Department of Trade standards. Mr Hicks said: "All that is needed to get her back to her original glory is a bit of work on the timbers. After what the *Southern Queen* went through in 1940 it is hardly a dignified way to go. History should be preserved and people should know what happened at Dunkirk."

Sub-Lieutenant Basil de Mattos, who took charge of the commandeered ferry boat for the Dunkirk rescue and who died three years ago aged 78, wrote: "I had never been under fire before Dunkirk but the crew and the *Southern Queen* seemed to bear a charmed life. We came home without a scratch."

'Cheat' walks out of record books

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

FFYONA CAMPBELL, the first woman to walk the world, will be removed from the next *Guinness Book of Records* at her own request after admitting that she cheated, officials confirmed last night.

Peter Matthews, editor of the book at the time of her attempt, said Ms Campbell's revelation was "something of a first" and that the publicity surrounding her attempt meant her record may not have been subject to normally stringent regulations.

In her forthcoming autobiography, Ms Campbell discloses that her ten-year marathon went adrift between Indianapolis and Fort Sumner on the American leg. Pregnant and physically unable to complete the required 25 miles a day to keep up to schedule, she hitched lifts in her back-up truck, walking only the last few miles into towns where press conferences were being held. She eventually returned to walking within the rules after an abortion.

Last week, Ms Campbell went to the offices of her main sponsors, Raleigh International, to explain and apologise to Jamie Robertson-Macleod, the chief executive. Yesterday he said he was disappointed but



Campbell: admission

that the charity would continue to support her in future.

"Whatever Ffion has done, she has still inspired many young people and her admission cannot take away from that. She has done the right thing to apologise and come clean," he said.

Ms Campbell said the guilt she had carried about her deception had forced her to tell the truth. "I shouldn't be remembered as the first woman to walk around the world when I cheated."

Mr Matthews said he was not surprised to hear of the deception but that it was nonetheless very rare. "Normally we would ask for unremitting surveillance but with something like this you have to take people on trust quite a lot," he said.

Scouts outraged by rector's novel

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A NOVEL by an Anglican clergyman that contains descriptions of Scout leaders sexually assaulting young boys has caused outrage in the Scout movement and was last night branded "a disgrace".

In the book, *Murder Within Temptation*, the Rev David Shepherd, rector of St Mary Magdalene's Episcopal church in Dundee, explores "the murkier depths of the Scouting world".

He has paid to publish the novel himself.

The novel has already sold more than 600 copies to family, friends and members of his congregation. One character, a gay Scout leader nicknamed "the Artful Groper", dabbles in witchcraft and the occult and seduces the boys.

The Scouts themselves are depicted as under-age, heavy-drinking lovers of sex. The plot centres on the murder of a Scout leader who is investigated by a police inspector who has an affair with a prostitute.

David Sheldermine, chief executive of the Scout Association in Scotland, said: "This is bizarre. The minister is obviously fantasising beyond all reason with a book like this. David Shepherd is obviously not living in the real world. He is trying to shock

people and this does the Scout movement no good at all. I am amazed that a minister in the Scottish Episcopal Church should write a book like this."

Mr Shepherd, 55, who was never a Scout, said the characters in the novel were wholly fictional, but added: "These things do happen in the Scout movement. I have known quite a few Scout leaders who have done things to boys."

His first book sold more than 1,000 copies and his third work of fiction, *Slaughter at the Polls*, about the murder of a Tory parliamentary candidate, is about to be published. Mr Shepherd said: "My congregation has an early appreciation of the facts of life."

Murder Within Temptation, which cost him more than £4,000 to publish, is priced at £2.50 in his church bookshop. Mr Shepherd's first novel, *Who Killed Sophie Jack?* which tells the story of the murder of a prostitute against a background of wife-swapping, cost him nearly £4,000 to publish privately.

Mr Shepherd, who has yet to make a profit from one of his books, said writing fiction was his hobby, relieving the boredom on holiday while his wife sunbathed.

Viewers vote for the sunshine years

By CAROL MIDGLEY

TWELVE years after his fatal heart attack, Eric Morecambe and his sidekick Ernie Wise have been voted the nation's favourite BBC light entertainers.

More than half a million viewers took part in the voting for last night's programme, *Ant's All Time Greats*, which celebrated 60 years of BBC television. There was an element of nostalgia to many of the choices. Morecambe and Wise were named the best light entertainment performers and their show was the best light entertainment series. Eric Morecambe's widow Joan, who collected the



Morecambe and Wise singing *Bring Me Sunshine*

awards with Ernie Wise, said: "I'm thrilled. He would have been chuffed."

Ronnie Barker, who now runs an antique shop in Oxfordshire, was given the

Lifetime Achievement in Comedy award. The 67-year-old star of *Porridge*, *The Two Ronnies* and *Open All Hours* said: "I haven't done a stroke of work for nine years. A lot

of people don't know I've retired because of repeats. I quit while I was ahead."

Dr Who defeated *Ballykissangel*, *Casualty* and *EastEnders* for the best popular drama award.

Victoria Wood, 43, defeated Monty Python and Harry Enfield to win the favourite comedy series award, and overtook Ben Elton and John Cleese to win the title of favourite comedy performer. She said: "I've never modelled my writing on anyone's work. That's why I was so lousy when I first started."

David Jason, the favourite sitcom performer, said: "Maybe these awards tell some producers what sort of entertainment people want."

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'We are talking different markets. For America the full-length pose has wit and class'

Barefoot Duchess toned down for British readers

By Emma Wilkins and Carol Midgley

THE Duchess of York's toes, famously caressed by her friend John Bryan on a French sun terrace four years ago, are to be banished from the front cover of the British edition of her new autobiography.

While the American editions will sport a full-length picture of a demure-looking, bare-footed Duchess, British readers will be restricted to a portrait of her head.

The Duchess and her publishers deemed the toes unsuitable for Britain, where the public will no doubt recall them being splashed over seven pages of the *Daily Mirror* in August 1992. The paparazzi Daniel Angeli hid in bushes to take several photographs of a near-naked Duchess with her former lover.

"It was always the plan to have a more sober cover for

the British edition," said Carolyn Reidy, president and publisher of Simon & Schuster's trade division. "We are talking about different markets and for the American one the full-length pose has both wit and class."

More than 400,000 copies of *My Story* are being printed in America. The original print run of 350,000 has been increased after extra orders from bookshops and the British serial rights have already been sold to *Hello!* magazine for more than £100,000.

The book's apparent popularity will be welcome news to the Duchess who, it was revealed yesterday, is appearing in an advertisement for a Japanese camera in an effort to relieve her estimated £4 million debts. She was paid £20,000 to pose for a photo-

graph in front of the Statue of Liberty holding an Olympus camera, making her the first British royal to appear in an advertisement. Olympus had originally wanted to use the model Naomi Campbell but called on the Duchess when negotiations fell through. The campaign will be launched next week in Austria.

In English, the wording on the poster states: "Fergie snaps the best example of steadfastness with her Olympus digital camera." In German, however, one word makes an allusion to her recent friendship with the Austrian tennis star Thomas Muster. The German word for "best example" is "Musterbeispiel".

Gunther Vetter, head of Olympus's Austrian consumer products division, said:



The Duchess of York as she features in the camera advertisement — a first for a member of the Royal Family

"The idea is that the human perseverance in question may be taken to refer either to the statue or to Thomas Muster, the Duchess's idea of a real good man."

According to Herr Vetter, the Duchess has asked the company to consider her for future promotions. She also asked if she could keep the

cashmere coat which she wears in the photograph, a request that was declined. Eventually she bought the coat for £1,500. "We would have had to pay Naomi Campbell a lot more than £20,000 and the Duchess originally wanted more, too," Herr Vetter said. "Of course the gossip and the scandals don't bother us at all.

It means more people will look at the adverts."

The Duchess's book will be published in America and Britain simultaneously on November 13. Ms Reidy insisted that the Duchess had not been tempted to "spice it up", despite the publication of books on her by her former psychic and by Allan Starkie.

Mr Bryan's friend and business partner, the Duchess's office also said she would honour her promise to the Queen not to embarrass members of the Royal Family. "She is bound by agreements with the Royal Family not to do one of those kiss and tell books, but her autobiography is not boring," a spokeswoman said.

Tunnel of love fails to keep toads off the road

By Nick Nuttall

WHY did the toad cross the road? Because a specially built tunnel under the traffic was simply too cold for a determined amphibian in search of its mate, scientists have found.

A study of a tunnel built under the A512 near Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, to help toads to cross from hibernating areas to breeding grounds, has found that they are avoiding it because its diameter is half the recommended one metre, keeping out warm air.

Professor Robert Oldham of De Montfort University, in a report to Leicestershire County Council, said: "The air is not circulating. The toads are not prepared to go into what they think are winter conditions." He suggests a fan or small heater.

Professor Oldham has now been given a grant from the British Ecological Society to study how the failure of the tunnel is affecting local toad populations. He is to radiograph some of the toads to study their fates.

Locals planned collection to block home for patients

By Kathryn Knight

NEIGHBOURS of a couple who bought a £250,000 house apparently to prevent it becoming a home for people with learning difficulties had planned a collection to fund the purchase if there was no alternative.

Martin Burr and his wife Beverley are said to have stepped in to buy *Kingsdown*, a six-bedroom property opposite their own detached home in Mersham, Surrey, after hearing it was to be sold to a housing association.

It was unclear last night whether they had been aided by funding from some of their neighbours, which had been discussed. Occupants of the street, Rockshaw Road, include a circuit judge and a Conservative councillor.

Richard Bull, former owner of *Kingsdown*, said one of his neighbours had told him that the residents would stop at nothing to prevent the deal with the housing association from going through. Fifty neighbours attended a meeting with the local health trust to discuss the proposal, although he said he and his wife had not been invited.

"All hell broke loose when the housing association contacted them as the sale was

about to go through, and there was talk of a number of my neighbours putting the money up but whether that is the case or whether people have simply guaranteed the purchaser will not lose out on the deal I simply don't know. All I can say is that we were extremely close to clinching the sale with the housing association when all this blew up."

Mr Burr, who owns a tiling company, said the details of the purchase were "of no concern" to anyone else and refused to comment further.

Don Marquis, chief executive of East Surrey NHS Priority Health Care Trust, said he was disappointed by the residents' reaction. "Having met the residents, the question is now would we want to put people who are fairly vulnerable into that kind of environment?"

The Metropolitan Housing Association uses health authority funds to buy private homes to resettle people with mental disabilities in the community. Michael Ormerod, leader of the Reigate and Banstead Labour Group, said he had been assured that patients, from Royal Earlswood Hospital in Redhill, were not dangerous.

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HRT study will follow fortunes of 30,000 women

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A TRIAL designed to answer the questions about hormone replacement therapy, taken by one in three British women in their 50s, begins today.

The international trial, which will last 25 years and cost £16 million, aims to establish how HRT affects the risks of developing a range of diseases, including breast cancer, osteoporosis and heart disease and stroke, as well as measuring the quality of life and well-being of those being treated.

More than 30,000 women between the ages of 50 and 64 are to be recruited for the trial, called Wisdom. Women's International Study of long Duration Oestrogen after Menopause — which will be co-ordinated by the Medical Research Council's Epidemiology and Medical Care Unit in London. The cost is being shared between the council, the Department of Health and the British Heart Foundation.

The majority of the women, some 18,000, are expected to

come from Britain, with the rest from other countries which have expressed an interest, including France, Germany, Australia, Ireland, The Netherlands and South Africa. Volunteers will be split into two groups, with half given HRT and the other half given inactive pills that look the same. Treatment will be given for ten years and patients followed up for a further ten years. The first results, on the

effects of HRT on the incidence of heart disease and stroke, are expected in 2012.

HRT is now a very common therapy prescribed to women who have reached the menopause. But the treatment, which involves replacing hormones no longer produced by the ovaries, has not been the subject of a major trial.

The co-ordinator of Wisdom, Dr Midge Vickers, said: "We are optimistic it will yield some extremely valuable answers to a host of questions about the implications of HRT for women's health."

The scientific evidence on HRT is, so far, broadly reassuring. Women seldom develop heart disease before the menopause, a benefit generally attributed to circulating levels of hormones. Maintaining those levels with HRT should cut the risk in older women, an effect confirmed by smaller trials.

HRT also appears to reduce the risk of the bone-thinning disease osteoporosis and, according to the most recent studies, delays the onset of Alzheimer's disease. A recent five-year study by doctors in Los Angeles estimated that women on HRT gained on average a five-year delay in Alzheimer's symptoms.

On the debit side, there is evidence of a small increase in the risks of breast cancer and of blood clots in the legs. A study published last month in *The Lancet* showed that this risk was small — an average of two cases a year for every 10,000 women on HRT.

Commenting on that finding, two Dutch doctors, Jan Vandenbroucke and Frans Helmerhorst from Leiden University, said that it was a reminder that oestrogen replacement was a therapy with side effects, albeit rare. "Prescribing for purely preventive purposes, without clinical indications, should be underpinned by strong evidence of benefit," they wrote in *The Lancet*.

The new trial, assuming it can recruit enough women, should be able to answer such questions. A large number are needed because the effects to be measured are small.

HRT has been sold strongly by its proponents as a miracle cure for the effects of the menopause. That means that a lot of women are strongly motivated to opt for it as soon as "menopausal" symptoms begin. It may not be easy to persuade women who have visited their doctors already convinced that HRT will transform their lives to enter a trial in which they could find themselves spending ten years taking a placebo instead.

New anti-ulcer drug brings NHS relief



MEDICAL BRIEFING

HUNDREDS of doctors who specialise in the diseases of the digestive tract have gathered in Paris this week for their annual meeting.

One small advance in the treatment of indigestion will be as welcome to Treasury officials as it is to the sufferers and their doctors. Knoll, which bought Boots Pharmaceuticals last year, has introduced Protonix pantoprazole, a new anti-ulcer drug which is appreciably cheaper than others of its type.

The cost to the NHS of gastro-intestinal diseases is £1.1 billion a year; of this, £360 million is spent on indigestion medicines of one sort or another.

Forty years ago, a bottle of medicine for indigestion cost, at most, a penny or two. The doctor took a liberal portion of one of the white antacid powders then available, mixed it with water, told the patient to take it three times a day and hoped for the best. Short of surgery, this was about all medicine had to offer to relieve the crippling pains which could be caused by peptic ulceration or the spilling of the

stomach contents into the lower end of the gullet.

There have been great advances in the treatment of peptic ulceration. H2 receptor antagonists, such as Tagamet, Zantac and other similar preparations have revolutionised treatment. More recently, proton pump inhibitors, such as Losec and Zoton, have been introduced and are even more efficient.

The cost, however, of ensuring that the nation's sufferers from indigestion do not have their nights ravaged by acute abdominal pain has risen sharply. The white medicine my patients were given in Norfolk during the 1950s has now, if the patients are wise and the doctors generous with funds, been replaced by Losec. But the cost to the NHS of this mighty tablet is £35 to £45 a month. "Protonix" will cost £29.76 a month. Indigestion is a major cost to the NHS — doctors are consulted about it more than 14 million times a year.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD



Frances Lawrence with Mandela, the family cat, and some of the letters of support. She will reply to them all

Headmaster's widow overwhelmed by support for manifesto of moral values

By Carol Midgley

THE widow of murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence said yesterday that she had been overwhelmed by the public's "energetic and imaginative" response to her manifesto to rid society of violence and restore civic values.

Frances Lawrence said: "I hoped my words might find an echo but I never imagined they would provoke a response on such a scale. I have been touched by the kind words and strengthened by the support expressed." Mr Lawrence was stabbed outside his school, St George's in Maida Vale, west London, last December.

Since *The Times* published Mrs Lawrence's manifesto, designed to keep her husband's own values alive and to tackle juvenile violence, politicians have taken up several of her proposals, including a ban on combat knives and an emphasis on teaching children citizenship. Letters and suggestions of support arrive daily.

"When I published my manifesto I was offering only tentative, personal thoughts which I hoped might stimulate others into action," Mrs Lawrence said. "I have been heartened to see how energetically and imaginatively others have risen to the challenge which confronts us all to tackle the causes of violence and heal our

fractured society. I hope soon to be able to deliver a considered response to the contributions of others and further thoughts about where we go from here."

Of the hundreds of people who have written to her, she said: "It will take me some time to read all the letters I have been sent. I am determined to respond to every letter but I hope those who have written will understand that I cannot reply to everybody as quickly as I would wish."

Next month politicians, churchmen and school pupils will be invited to the unveiling of a memorial to commemorate the anniversary of Mr Lawrence's death.

RAF chaps resent press interest in female fliers

By Michael Evans

AN equality protest from men has landed on the desk of the RAF publicity machine, claiming their work is being ignored while women crew are highlighted.

The backlash was aimed at the Service's internal newspaper, *RAF News*, following articles about women fliers. Flight Lieutenant David Curtis, speaking on behalf of the Support Helicopter Force in Croatia, wrote from his base in Split: "Due to the increasing frequency of front-page articles indicating a bias towards reporting of female air crew doing what can only be described as their jobs, we offer our newsworthy item."

"Today an all-male crew reported for work on time. Despite the usual appalling weather conditions, the crew, who incidentally receive the same training as female air crew, managed to complete a full day's tasking. Such an achievement is yet another example of how men have managed to integrate themselves into today's equal opportunities RAF."

He insisted that he was not slighting female aircrew, but hoped that *RAF News* would stop "reporting every female-related occurrence as front page news". The newspaper replied: "Stories appear because they are newsworthy. For most of its history, the RAF has not had women in the cockpit. Inevitably there is fascination in the press."

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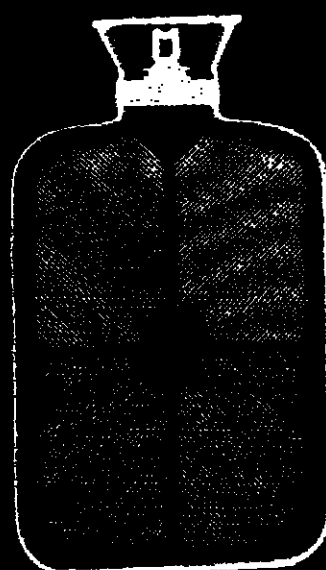
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Election candidates lower the Union flag as they promise to widen gap with London and Brussels

Independent isle nails three-legged colours to the mast

REPORTS BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

ON THE windswept island where the parliamentary system began over 1,000 years ago, a general election campaign is under way that will return a Government committed to loosening ties with Westminster and Brussels.

Voters on the Isle of Man can choose between 47 candidates for the 24 seats in the House of Keys. As befits so fiercely independent a people, almost all the candidates are standing as independents. The difference between them is reflected by the extent they each want to sever the links that bind the ancient Crown dependency to Britain.

Although only half the 71,000 residents were born on the island, the sense of national identity and self-confidence is keeping pace with the boom that has transformed the tax haven's economy over the past decade. With the mushrooming of financial service industries has come skilled jobs. Instead of the most gifted young people leaving the island to work abroad, they can now look forward to a career at home. This young, well-educated and articulate group are pushing the politicians to loosen the ties.

Although the large majority of Manx people remain loyal



Gelling: favourite for post of Chief Minister

to the Queen, they prefer to call her Lord of Mann. Flagpoles put up to fly Union flags now flaunt the red banner of Man with its three-legged emblem. The Manx language, almost extinct a decade ago, is an optional extra at all schools and 1,500 children are starting to learn it every year.

Pride in the Isle of Man is typified by Donald Gelling, 58, Treasury Minister since 1989 and hot favourite to take over as Chief Minister after the election. He has cut taxation, doubled public spending and built up reserves from £6

million to £100 million. He carries a British passport but is proud of the stamp that says he cannot live and work in the EU, as the Isle of Man is not part of it.

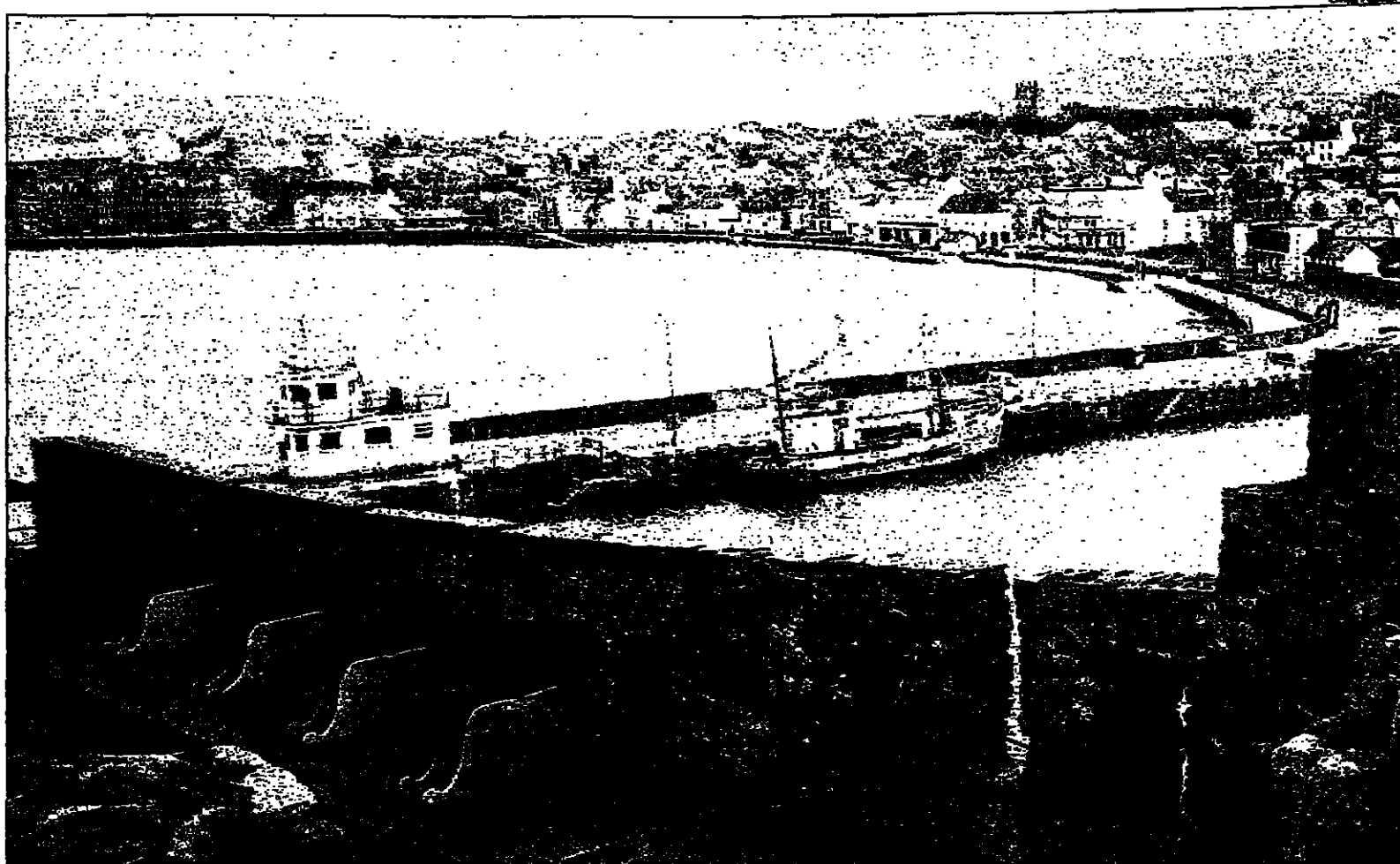
Mr Gelling was outraged by last week's attack on the island's tax haven status by George Foulkes, the Labour overseas development spokesman. "They just don't understand how this economy works," he said. "If they took our right to control our taxes away we would end up in poverty."

As Chief Minister, he would keep the island on its steady, increasingly independent course. Links with Britain he sees as a kind of necessary evil to give island goods a back-door entrance to European markets.

The outgoing Chief Minister, Miles Walker, 55, is stepping down after ten years in charge. He hopes to hold his seat and promises he will have more time for his constituents. "As an independent I can represent my community and I am not forced to vote with a party. That is what makes our democracy so much better than Westminster's."

David Creaney, 43, leader of the Manx Labour Party — it is not affiliated to the UK Labour Party — and junior Tourism Minister, is just back from a meeting of the International Motorcycle Federation in Bangkok, where he successfully argued against a move to ban the island's TT races on the ground that the course is too dangerous. Mr Creaney, who crashed at nearly 90mph on his Honda three years ago in the amateur race, said: "This is the finest motorcycle event in the world and we don't want outsiders interfering with the way we run it."

He does not like Brussels interfering with the way the economy is run, either. Although not a member of the EU, the island has an agreement with the UK to levy the same VAT rates. "The UK sets its rates according to EU



The old world charm of Peel harbour, on the Isle of Man's west coast, contrasts with the boom in high-tech and financial service industries

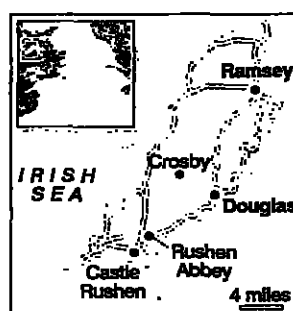
THE ISLE OF MAN

THE Isle of Man has a special relationship with the European Union, allowing it free movement of goods and access to European markets through the UK. But the island makes no financial contribution to, nor receives money from, EU funds.

It has Europe's first and only free port — a 20-acre site by the main airport at Ronaldsway where manufacturers can import raw materials and export finished goods without paying any customs fees or taxes.

The standard rate of income tax is 15 per cent, charged on the first £9,000 income of a single person or £18,000 of a married couple. All income above that level is charged at 20 per cent.

There are no death duties, capital transfer or gifts taxes, capital gains tax or wealth tax. Unemployment is 3.5 per cent. Over 82 per cent of the island is used for agriculture, with 32,000 cattle, 154,000 sheep, 5,000 pigs and 57,000 poultry. Beef exports



are banned by the EU, although the island had just 12 cases of BSE this year.

Records show Tynwald, the island's Parliament, has been meeting since AD979 and claims to be the oldest legislature in the world in continuous existence. It makes its own fiscal and social policies but external issues are administered on the island's behalf by the UK Government. The legislature has two parts: the House of Keys, which has 24 members elected every five years; and the 11-member Legislative Council, eight of whom are elected by the House.

'Stop overs' bank on a better future

JOE CALLAGHAN is ten months old and has his own offshore bank account. His father, Steve, 33, does not qualify yet but is delighted he moved his young family to the Isle of Man, where every baby born is entitled to one.

Steve, a computer expert, is what islanders call a "stop over", an immigrant who came to work and stayed to live. He arrived three years ago with his wife Andrea, 31, daughter Samantha, now 6, and son Jack, 3.

"I was attracted by the quality of life," he says. "There is a good education system, the health service works well and it is safe for the kids to play on the street. On top of that the scenery is wonderful."

Steve hopes he has found a safe job in financial services with a much better future than he had in Britain. "The natives are quite friendly and accept you, especially after you buy your own house and show you

are ready to stay," he says. In two years he will qualify for a permanent work permit. Then he intends to open his own offshore account.

Stuart Mason, 29, another computer expert, is what the Manx call a "come over" — someone on a short contract who will return to Britain. "Underneath you can tell they prefer people who come here to work who are prepared to show long-term commitment to the place," he says.

A further category is the "dragged overs", the spouses of Manx-born people persuaded by their partner to settle on the island.

These new categories of immigrants are outnumbering the dying breed of what are known locally as "when I's", the ex-colonials who used to retire to the island from foreign postings and were famous for beginning every sentence with "When I was in..."



Creaney has been fighting a move to ban the TT races on the ground that they are too dangerous

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Committee selected candidates from *Who's Who* in bungled selection procedure

LSE fails to find a leader after two-year search

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A TWO-YEAR worldwide search has failed to produce a leader for one of Britain's most prestigious universities, leaving it rudderless at a crucial period in its history.

Governments all over the world have graduates of the London School of Economics in key positions and more than 50 MPs honed their leadership skills there. The LSE should be on a roll. It has been highly successful at attracting both cash-rich overseas students and research income. But, with the school facing an uncertain financial future and an election less than six

months away, the post of director remains vacant.

The LSE's image as an engine of Labour radicalism could not contrast more strongly with the bungled selection process. Snubbed by at least one candidate and unable to agree on an alternative, governors have turned to staff for ideas.

Officially, a field of 300 candidates has been whittled down to five and interviews are imminent. But academics were invited to an open meeting to suggest more names late last month.

The school, fourth in the *Times* ranking of universities and famed for its vision, has suffered a series of embarrassing setbacks since Dr

John Ashworth announced his departure as director. It failed in ambitious schemes to acquire London's County Hall and later St Bartholomew's Hospital, again abandoned an on-off flirtation with top-up fees for its students, and had to reopen the search for a director when Sir John Bourn, the head of the National Audit Office rejected the post two months after it had been offered to him.

The first search for a replacement for Dr Ashworth, who left in September to head the British Library, was a disaster. With no clear procedure, the 12-strong selection committee led by Sir Peter Parker, chairman of the university

court of governors, reached its own shortlist by idiosyncratic means.

According to insiders, members suggested various names which were then looked up in *Who's Who* and accepted for more serious consideration if there were no violent objections.

No formal interviews were arranged. Instead, the five shortlisted candidates were each invited to dinner at clubs selected by Sir Peter. None of the candidates was female. Baroness Blackstone, the master of Birkbeck College who studied for her PhD at the LSE, was suggested but later rejected, according to one source.

Out of this process — but not by

unanimous approval — emerged Sir John's name. When he turned down the £125,000 job, a furious row broke out among the university's 100 governors. Sir Peter defended his procedure but it was reformed for the second search, with the committee cut from 12 to eight members. Their new shortlist is said to feature at least one woman but no current LSE academics.

Again speculation has focused on Baroness Blackstone, as well as a former LSE lecturer, Dr Nick Stern, chief economist at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Raymond Setz, former American ambassador to London and a trustee of the National

Gallery, and Dr Alan Budd, an LSE graduate who is chief economic adviser to the Treasury, have also been mentioned. One candidate who came close in the initial process, Dr Jeffrey Jowell, head of law at University College London, may also be back in the frame.

Dr Ashworth, a biologist in charge of Britain's leading social scientists, was never fully accepted. His advice to the new incumbent: "It is a highly political job with every size of capital P and every typography. People forget that although the abbreviation is LSE, the true title is the London School of Economics and Political Science. You forget political science at your peril."

New talks in bid to avert post strike

Leaders of the Communication Workers Union and Royal Mail managers were due to meet today for talks aimed at heading off disruption to the Christmas post. The two sides met for "exploratory discussions" over the weekend in an attempt to find a solution to the long-running dispute over pay, hours and working practices. Union members have vowed to resume industrial action which could badly disrupt Christmas deliveries.

Birthday lottery

The National Lottery is to offer an estimated "Superdraw" jackpot of £20 million to celebrate its second anniversary on November 16. There have been two previous "Superdraws" — for £10 million and £15 million. Lottery numbers, page 26

Ramblers protest

The Ramblers' Association has attacked a decision by the Forestry Commission to sell its lease on a 100-acre wood owned by the Church Commissioners. It says walkers have long had access to Hagg Wood in Dunnington, Yorkshire.

Officer sacked

A policeman has been dismissed for racially abusing and sexually harassing female colleagues. PC Tony Worrall, of Marsh Lane Police Station, Bootle, Liverpool, is expected to appeal against the disciplinary hearing's decision.

Dig for history

An aircraft enthusiast is to dig up a road in Hove, East Sussex, this week to identify a Second World War fighter. Keith Arnold, 45, believes it is the Hurricane of Sgt Dennis Noble of 43 Squadron, who died when it crashed in 1940.

Woman on fire

A woman set her hair on fire after dousing herself with petrol from a pump at a garage in Salisbury. The woman, 38, from Lymington, Hampshire, was last night critical but stable with 40 per cent burns to her face and legs.

Birds go hungry

A shortage of natural food will lead to millions of birds depending on human help this winter. Andy Gosler, Oxford University ornithologist, predicts an invasion of gardens because beech trees have produced a poor seed crop.

Tree kills two

A woman and a seven-year-old boy were killed when a tree fell on their car at Ballyclare, Co Antrim. Police said that another child in the car escaped injury. The woman and boy died at the scene of the accident.

Pit wedding

Helen Scott, 32, whose father died of the injuries he suffered in a pit accident when she was only three years old, married as a tribute to him in the winding room of the disused Woodhorn Colliery in Ashington, Northumberland.

Military camps will become prisons to ease overcrowding

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

TWO disused military bases are to be opened as prisons in an attempt to ease overcrowding and cope with a jail population increasing by between 200 and 250 a week.

The Prison Service is planning to house 300 inmates in a former air force base at Scampton in Lincolnshire before Christmas and is looking for another site to hold a further 500 prisoners. Final negotiations over the conversion of the base to a prison are underway but the Prison Service has already earmarked Chris Davidson, a senior governor, to run the emergency accommodation.

The final details to be agreed include whether the strengthened perimeter fence is to be patrolled by military personnel and if the Prison Service is to purchase the base for long-term use as a jail.

The Prison Service is proposing to use Scampton and the other site for at least two years while it awaits places being provided by six new prisons, currently under construction or planned. Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said: "Overcrowding and idleness, which the service thought it had put

The Government is braced for a defeat in the High Court this week on how the Prison Service calculates the length of time offenders with concurrent sentences stay in jail. At present, time spent on remand for the dominant sentence is taken off the overall sentence but the court is expected to rule later this week that time spent on remand for each sentence should be taken off. Officials believe fewer than 100 prisoners would be freed with 200 sentences reduced.

behind it, have now returned to many institutions."

With the prison population at a record 57,833 on Friday, the emergency use of military bases is the latest in a series of measures aimed at ensuring that the service does not have to put three inmates in cells designed for one, or resort to the expensive alternative of holding them in police cells.

It has bought four pre-fabricated units which will be installed at open and low security Category C prisons by December. The units will hold

a total of 160 inmates. One thousand extra places have been provided by putting two prisoners in cells designed for solo occupancy in some training and local jails.

The rapidly escalating prison population means that spending on the 135 jails in England and Wales will rise from £1.4 billion in 1996-97 to £1.43 billion in 1998-99. Projections made in September by the Home Office show that the jail population will rise to 59,600 by the end of March next year and to 63,100 by March 1998.

The Home Office memorandum for MPs added that some prisoners' regimes would be affected as a result of the rising population. Between April and August this year prisoners spent an average 24.8 hours a week in purposeful activity, below the target of 26.5 hours, and an average three hours a day on education compared with 3.2 hours in 1995-1996.

Brendan O'Friel, governor of Strangeways jail in Manchester at the time of the riot, and Andrew Barclay, governor of Whitemoor jail when five IRA terrorists escaped, have both retired early.



How Jesus and Pontius Pilate have taken shape in Moscow, with voices by Ralph Fiennes and Ian Holm

A model cast for £6m Gospel epic

AN EPIC film of the Gospels is moving towards completion at the rate of four seconds a day, but there is no doubt that all the leading figures are just made for their roles.

The world's largest model animation project is aiming to put *The Jesus Story* into cinemas in 1998, and on television for the millennium. The £66.5 million British and Russian co-production involves scale models of 55 Holy Land locations built at Moscow studios and

240 character models whose movements are shot frame by frame.

The voices will be provided by actors including Ralph Fiennes as Jesus, Richard E. Grant as John the Baptist, David Thewlis as Judas, Bob Peck as Joseph of Arimathea, Miranda Richardson as Mary Magdalene, William Hurt as Jairus and Ian Holm as Pilate.

The partnership between BBC Wales, British Screen, SAC, and the Russian animators Christmas Films involves

some of the people behind the successful animation, *Testament*, now being screened on BBC2. Flashbacks and parables will be drawn in Cardiff.

Leading clerics were consulted about the script. Chris Grace, director of animation at SAC, said the timing was perfect: "There is an upsurge in interest in moral and family values. And as the year 2000 approaches, the interest in the life of Jesus will be intense. It is a big responsibility."

Ruling will end holiday insurance price 'catch'

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

COMPULSORY travel insurance, which can often add up to 20 per cent to the cost of a holiday, must be clearly shown in all future advertisements, the Advertising Standards Authority has ruled.

It has produced a six-point code which will be automatically incorporated into the ABTA code of conduct. The move follows complaints by consumer groups and holiday-makers that they were often being tricked into paying far more for their holiday than they had thought.

If a holiday is subject to compulsory insurance, the

typical cost must be stated. The ASA says that future prices must say, for example: "One week holiday in Paris £269 plus insurance, typically £32 per person."

The typical insurance cost must also be sufficiently prominent that it will be easily seen by a reader. A typical insurance cost should be the premium payable by a person in good health between the ages of 18 and 65, it says.

Advertisers may be able to quote prices inclusive of compulsory insurance, but this must be clearly stated. So far, there has been no move to

force airlines to include departure taxes in their headline prices, now being widely advertised. But Nigel Griffiths, the Shadow consumer affairs spokesman, made clear to ABTA this week that a Labour government would take action on the issue.

"The headline figure should reflect the price paid," he said. "The headline price used in adverts and promotions must be accurate. The Office of Fair Trading must tackle this. I certainly intend to if I become the minister. Customers are entitled to have the whole cost spelt out when they pre-pay."

Driver hit by concrete regains consciousness

THE motorist critically injured when a concrete block thrown off a motorway bridge smashed through his windscreen has regained consciousness and spoken to his family. Simon Willmott, 22, who sustained severe head and chest injuries in the accident 17 days ago, opened his eyes to see his parents, who had spent most of the time at his bedside.

Mr Willmott, who was driving from his job as a salesman with Nynex in Bournemouth, Dorset, to his home in Bagshot, Surrey, when he was hit, is still in intensive care.

A spokesman for the Royal Brompton Hospital, west London, said it was hoped that he would soon be taken off the critical list. "The fact that he

has regained consciousness is a good sign but we do not want to build up people's hopes too much. He still has a long way to go," said the spokesman.

A £5,000 reward has been offered for information leading to the conviction of the culprits.

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Rifkind tells Israel all settlements on Arab land 'illegal'

FROM MICHAEL BINYON
IN HEBRON

MALCOLM RIFKIND yesterday sent a blunt message to Israel by reaffirming that Britain believes all Israeli settlements in the occupied territories to be illegal. The Foreign Secretary also restated the importance to the entire Middle East peace process of a resolution of the settlement problem.

"The failure of the Hebron negotiations would be bad news for the Palestinians and Israelis working for peace," Mr Rifkind said at a press conference with Mustafa Natshe, Hebron's Palestinian Mayor. Ministers of the Palestinian Authority and other West Bank Mayors were also present.

Mr Rifkind's forceful emphasis on the illegality of the settlements, both in Hebron and elsewhere, while he was so close to the one in the heart of the city underlined Britain's fundamental disagreement with Israel on this issue.

Jerusalem: The Queen has invited President Weizman to make a state visit to Britain, the first since the creation of Israel in 1948, officials said. David Levy, the Israeli Foreign Minister, announced the invitation after talks with Malcolm Rifkind. (AFP)

The Foreign Secretary was at pains to emphasise that Britain, France and other European countries spoke with one voice over the settlements. "We are all seeking success in the peace process," he said, adding that a Palestinian state could not be excluded. "It is an option which must be available."

But, he said, only the Palestinians and the Israelis could determine the success or failure of the peace process. Without Hebron, the peace process was rhetoric, he said. "With Hebron, it begins to look real."

Mr Rifkind was forced by Israeli security to travel in an

armoured limousine instead of the British Embassy Range Rover. The security fears were quickly justified when youths on the outskirts of Hebron threw a large rock at the accompanying press bus. A window was smashed but nobody was hurt.

Earlier, Mr Rifkind spoke of the "grave concern" in Britain and the international community over the faltering peace process, and gave Israel a clear warning that it still had much to do in order to regain trust and rebuild confidence after the deterioration that had marked recent months.

Speaking after a meeting with David Levy, the Israeli Foreign Minister, he said that he believed peace would only come to the region if Israel and the Palestinians and Israel and her Arab neighbours negotiated directly. "The proper role of the international community is to assist all those who are genuinely working for peace."

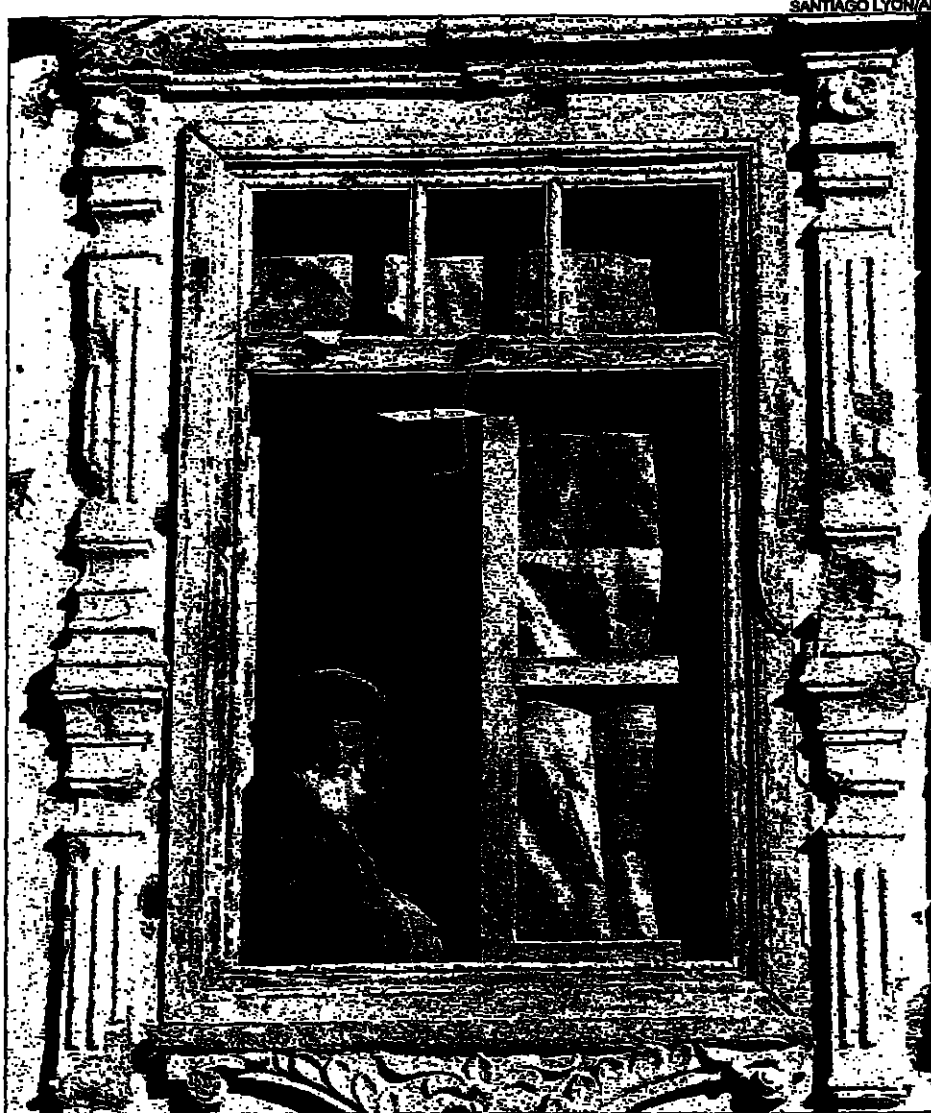
He also said "words must be matched by deeds", adding that there was a real prospect of agreement on Hebron, but this should not be a final step "but the beginning of what could be a renaissance of the peace process."

The Foreign Secretary made clear that Britain saw it as essential for the Israeli Government to move on to the rest of the interim agreement and final status talks with the Palestinians.

The Foreign Secretary said he was deeply concerned by the severe economic problems the Palestinians were facing, and urged Israel to do more to speed aid to the Palestinians by way of granting free passage and co-operating with international organisations. His call followed criticism last week by Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Development Minister, that Israel had unnecessarily held up the work of the United Nations Relief and Welfare Agency.

Mr Rifkind also visited Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, and President Weizman. He was later meeting Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority.

Leading article, page 23



A man sits in morning sunshine at a bomb-damaged school in Kabul

Afghan allies to target Taleban strongholds

FROM MICHAEL DYNES IN SHERBERGHAN, AFGHANISTAN

FORCES loyal to the former Afghan Government are preparing to bring the war into Taleban bastions across the country in an attempt to break the air-week deadlock in the siege of Kabul.

General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the ruler of Afghanistan's northern mini-state, is infiltrating arms and men into the countryside around the western city of Herat, which was captured by the Taleban militia last year.

Abdul Karim Khalili, the leader of an ethnic army of Shia Muslims that has joined General Ahmed Shah Massoud, the ousted Defence Minister, is preparing to open up a third front to the west of Kabul in an effort to weaken Taleban's grip on the city.

Six of General Dostum's MIG23 fighters have been seen at Mazar-i-Sharif airport armed with air-to-air missiles, provoking speculation that they are preparing to take on Taleban warplanes in the air and even bomb the Taleban capital of Kandahar in the south of the country. However, despite a colossal bombardment by the combined forces of General Massoud and General Dostum, the Taleban Sunni Muslim militia has retained control of Kabul's strategic Dehshad Pass in the northeast and the Khair Khana Pass to the northwest.

The Massoud-Dostum alliance inflicted two severe beatings on Taleban during the heavy fighting at the mouth of the Panjshir Valley and around Bagram airport. Its forces have also captured vital territory on the two northern approaches to the city. But they have failed to dislodge the Taleban fighters from their stronghold in the hills. Opening a new front in Herat is intended to stretch Taleban forces to breaking point. Ismael Khan, the former Governor, lost the city to Taleban largely because his fighters deserted when he failed to pay their wages. He is now anxious to take on Taleban and regain his power with General Dostum's backing.

Taleban is hated in Herat, a Tajik city with close ties to Iran, where it has imposed the same brutal regime as exists

in Kabul. Local hostility is so great that Taleban has had to patrol the city in groups in an attempt to deter attacks from civilians.

Reports about the fighting in neighbouring Badghis Province are confused. General Dostum's forces claim significant advances against Taleban. But French and South African journalists visiting a so-called safe area said they were fired on by Taleban warplanes.

General Dostum, whose passport hangs over the gates of his home town of Sherberghan, is being courted by Pakistan, the paymaster of the Taleban insurrection. Islamabad wants him to make a pact with Mullah Muhammad Omah, the one-eyed leader of the Taleban militia. But so far General Massoud's alliance with General Dostum has held firm.

General Massoud's estimated 12,000 fighters are being paid \$4 (£2.50) a month with a bonus of \$4 every time they go into battle. The war is costing the general \$48,000 a month in wages alone. He cannot prosecute the war indefinitely without some foreign help.

General Dostum precipitated the downfall of President Najibullah, the former Moscow-backed leader, by switching sides to the Mujahidin in 1991. He has since swapped his general's uniform for a smart Western suit in an attempt to jettison his image as a pro-communist warlord. But General Dostum has changed sides many times and could easily do so again without warning.



Masood: war wages cost him \$48,000 a month

Iraq rejects American claim of missile attack in 'no-fly' zone

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IRAQ yesterday denied a White House statement that a US warplane enforcing a "no-fly" zone over southern Iraq had fired a missile at one of its radar sites. It said no incident of any kind had taken place and the "false news" was designed to boost President Clinton's re-election chances.

An Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman also insisted Iraq was still committed to a decision it made in September not to fire at American, British and French warplanes patrolling northern and southern Iraq, although he repeated Baghdad's long-standing position that the "no-fly" zones were illegal.

The Iraqi assurances suggested that President Saddam Hussein was not about to engage in eleven-hour mili-

tary brinkmanship with President Clinton before tomorrow's elections, although Iraqi challenges in the future are inevitable, diplomats said. State-run Iraqi newspapers yesterday continued to fume at last week's US-brokered ceasefire between Iraq's two main Kurdish factions, predicting it would fail.

Iraq has not challenged American warplanes since September, when the United States attacked southern Iraq with cruise missiles and extended the southern "no-fly" zone to punish Baghdad for sending forces into a Kurdish "safe" area. Iraq at first defied the move by vowing to shoot down allied planes.

The Pentagon insisted that an American F16 warplane had fired a missile at an Iraqi

radar installation. The F16's pilot had fired the missile because he believed the radar had locked on to his plane while he was patrolling the zone over southern Iraq, the Pentagon added.

However, it was not immediately able to say whether the plane had been targeted specifically or whether the radar site was destroyed.

Baghdad: Three United Nations oil experts left Iraq yesterday after inspecting the country's oil facilities for possible implementation of a delayed oil-for-food deal with the world body, a UN source in Baghdad said. They checked the Iraqis' metering, equipment and oil facilities to see whether they can handle exports, required under the oil accord. (Reuters)

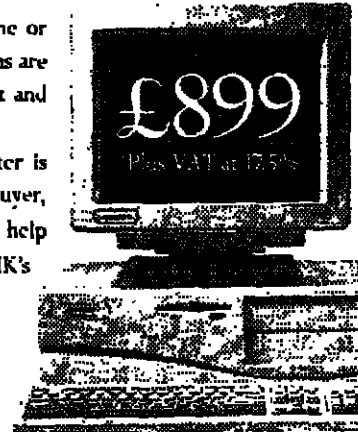
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Britain cool on plan to open Zaire safety zone for a million refugees

French press for intervention to save fleeing Hutus

BY BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND MICHAEL EVANS

FRANCE yesterday called on the rest of Europe to prepare for intervention in eastern Zaire as Paris confirmed it was considering plans to open "humanitarian corridors" to help a million Hutu refugees to escape the ethnic fighting.

"We are already pre-positioning supplies, food, water, shelter and clothing. But France cannot act alone. Everyone in other European capitals must now start preparing to act as soon as the opportunity arises," Xavier Emmanuelli, the French Secretary of State for Humanitarian Aid, said.

In London last night, there appeared to be no great enthusiasm either at the Foreign Office or the Ministry of Defence to support France's

appeal. Although France and Britain have talked in the past of a possible joint peacekeeping effort for the African continent, London appeared to be reluctant to get involved in a humanitarian mission that involves deploying troops.

Foreign Office officials made it clear that Britain's interests at this stage were focused solely on the need to help the Africans "to help themselves" in meeting the latest humanitarian crisis. Despite ominous warnings of a bloodbath, there were no moves either by European Governments to intervene to set up safety zones for the refugees.

In Washington, the White House disclosed that Anthony Lake, President Clinton's Na-

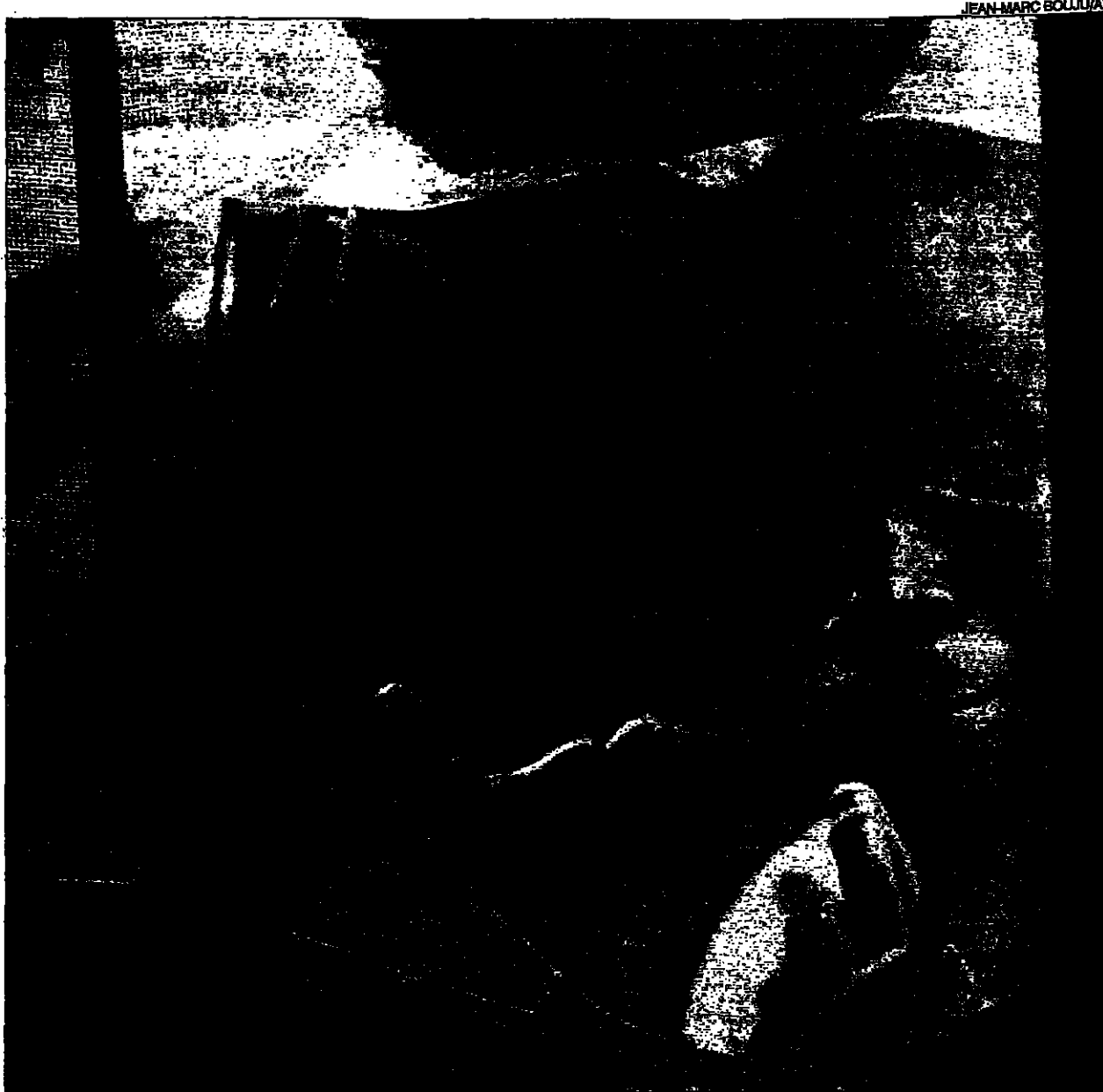
tional Security Adviser, had met President Clinton in Paris to discuss ways to resolve the crisis in Zaire. A spokeswoman said the Administration was making an "all-out effort" to assist in resolving the humanitarian crisis.

Unfolding France's proposals, M. Emmanuelli said the EU should intervene under a mandate either from the United Nations or from African heads of state who meet tomorrow to discuss the situation in Zaire.

Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, contacted Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, and Dick Spring, the Foreign Minister of Ireland, current holder of the EU presidency, "to discuss how the international community can reply to the urgency of the humanitarian drama" in Kivu province.

France sent troops to stop fighting in Rwanda two years ago, but faced subsequent accusations that Paris was merely seeking to advance French interests in the region.

While M. Emmanuelli emphasised the need for a combined European approach to the humanitarian crisis, one senior government adviser said that France should intervene alone. "I am suggesting a unilateral French operation because we have the military



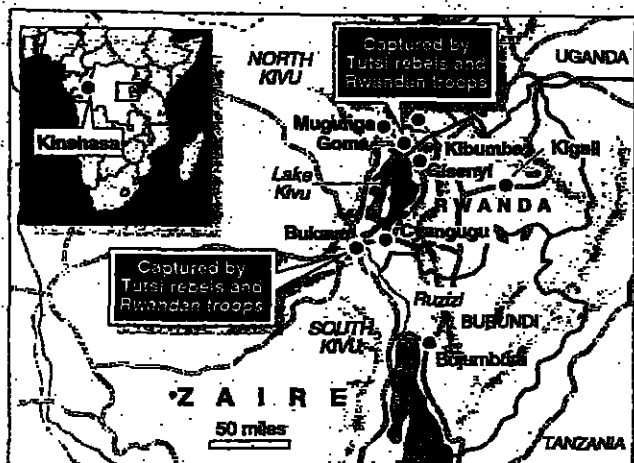
Rwandan Hutu refugees waiting for biscuits distributed by aid workers at Mugunga camp, west of Goma

capacity in Africa," Gérard Prunier, the academic who advised France on the largely successful Operation Turquoise in 1994, said. M. Prunier said the French Army should move quickly to create

a safe passage west, deeper into Zaire, for the refugees. "We may have to forget about the rest of Europe and the UN because it will take too long," he said.

In Pretoria, pressure was mounting on the South African Government to halt arms exports to Rwanda, whose invading troops captured the strategic city of Goma in Zaire on Friday. Even Jan van Deventer, Pretoria's Ambas-

sador to Zaire, joined in the calls for the arms deals to be suspended. President Mandela has defended his Government's decision to sell arms worth about £11 million to Rwanda.



Vengeance catches up with Rwandan genocide gangs

FROM SAM KILEY IN GISENYI ON THE RWANDA-ZAIRE BORDER

A RWANDAN army border guard, on spotting journalists, became agitated. Bumping at Kibumba camp in the valley, he yelled: "Get away, get away, we don't want the *mzungus* (whites) to see the bodies in the camp. There are lots of dead militia and Zairean soldiers down there."

On a ridge above, a river of miserable humanity flowed north yesterday, past the foot of Goma's Nyamurungu volcano. The thick black line of refugees was visible from four miles away across the Zaire-Rwanda border.

As the border guard forced the driver to turn around, Zairean rebels drove into Rwanda in a pick-up commandeered from the International Committee of the Red Cross and disappeared into a

Rwandan army camp. The incident contradicted the claim of Rwanda's spokesman, Wilson Ndiraho, who had insisted yesterday that neither weapons nor weapons had been given to eastern Zaire's rebel groups.

The dead militiamen referred to by the border guard were members of the *Interhamwe*, Rwanda's extremist thugs responsible for the 1994 genocide of almost a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates. They had been using the refugee camps in Zaire as bases from which to attack Rwanda and kill survivors and witnesses to their genocide. Dr Ndiraho would have been pleased that a knock-on effect of the Banyarwanda Tutsi rebel uprising in Zaire's North and South Kivu prov-

inces has led to the deaths of his Government's enemies.

Ernesta Bonino, the European Union's Humanitarian Commissioner, called yesterday for international military intervention to establish "humanitarian corridors". But her call was dismissed by Dr Ndiraho. "There is no need for intervention. We need to get across to the refugees that they must come home," he said.

His view was partly endorsed by the charity, Care International. Allison Campbell, Care spokeswoman in Gisenyi, said: "Military intervention would only be useful if it were balanced with a magnet to draw the refugees back to Rwanda. It would be disastrous to return to the status quo of the past two years and we would not get involved."

Mobutu may have to leave Switzerland

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

AS SEVERAL hundred thousand refugees crammed into a bay on Lake Kivu in Zaire yesterday, President Mobutu enjoyed a splendid view on a bright autumn day of the French Alps across Lake Geneva.

But the ailing Zairean leader's stay in a lakeside hotel in Switzerland may not last beyond the end of this month. The President, who is undergoing treatment for prostate cancer at Lausanne's Univer-

sity Hospital after surgery in August, has a visa that is renewable every month. Before it was last granted on October 24, there were rumours that the Swiss Government would discreetly decline to renew it for a third time.

Now, the justice minister of the local canton, which also has a say in visa applications, and the Mayor of Lausanne, have added to the growing domestic criticism of their embarrassing guest. President Mobutu has a villa in Savigny, a nearby village, which is valued at about £1 million. But the Swiss

Government, angered by the brutal suppression of unrest in Zaire three years ago, had made it clear that regular visits would be unwelcome.

The Zairean leader is said to have several million pounds in German and Swiss banks, most of it hived off profits from diamond and copper mines in Shaba Province.

If President Mobutu is discreetly advised to avoid the cold Alpine weather next month, diplomats believe he may move on to his other retreat on the French Riviera.

China picks Hong Kong kingmakers

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CLOSELY supervised by senior Chinese officials, the Selection Committee was formed over the weekend in Peking to choose Hong Kong's first Chief Executive, who will succeed Chris Patten, the Governor, and the Provisional Legislative Council to replace the present wholly elected one on July 1, 1997.

With a handful of exceptions, and as expected, the new committee is made up of reliable allies of China. Members of the Preparatory Committee, 150 people handpicked by Peking to establish the post-handover government, selected 340 candidates from a shortlist of 409 chosen by China, which had scrutinised a list of 5,000 who nominated themselves. Those chosen include all 86 members of the Preparatory Committee who wished to be on the Selection Committee.

Apart from the 340, 60 more Selection Committee members will be composed of the 26 Hong Kong members of China's National People's Congress and 34 Hong Kong members of a Peking-based advisory body, the People's Political Consultative Conference. Of the 69 excluded from the original 409, most were either democratically inclined or had little previous experience on other committees approved by China.

Three of those chosen present an immediate problem to Mr Patten. They are Vincent Cheng and Raymond Chien, both members of his inner Cabinet, the Executive Council. By agreeing to help to select the Provisional Legislative Council next month, they fly in the face of official government policy that the body is virtually illegal and that no member of government may co-operate with it.

The Selection Committee is dominated by Hong Kong's richest tycoons. Meanwhile, more than 1,000 local people marched through central Hong Kong yesterday, protesting against last week's 11-year jail sentence imposed in Peking on Wang Dan, the leading dissident.



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Presidential contenders criss-cross America in frenetic final round of campaigning

Clinton targets his appeal on voters' hearts, not minds

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX
IN NEW ORLEANS

PRESIDENT CLINTON has told Americans from California to the Atlantic coast that he has been on the last weekend of the last campaign of his life. As the clock ticks towards the opening of the polls tomorrow morning, Mr Clinton is relentlessly criss-crossing the nation, travelling to a new state every four hours in pursuit of the second term that no Democratic President since Franklin Roosevelt has achieved.

He last slept in his White House bed on Tuesday night: by the time the polls close, he will have visited 16 states, 18 cities and travelled 7,000 miles. Each time Air Force One is airborne, he and his aides gather around its meeting room table to study the opinion polls and squeeze more visits into the timetable. At each stop, the President gets a change of shirt at every second city, a change of suit, light-coloured for the bright morning sun, and dark for the floodlit evening rallies.

The punishing schedule on Saturday began in San Antonio's Texan heat: he dropped in on his home town of Little Rock, Arkansas, in the early afternoon, and reached New Orleans at sunset, finally landing in Florida early yesterday. Just four hours later, he prepared to address an



Clinton: simple message

early church service, then crossed the state to West Palm Beach and swung up the coast to rallies in New Jersey, Massachusetts and Maine. Today, in an unbroken 23-hour sweep, he will visit New Hampshire, Ohio, Kentucky, Iowa and South Dakota, arriving in Little Rock at dawn tomorrow.

In Texas he was carrying his campaign into a Republican stronghold. In front of the Alamo, the monument to Texas independence from Mexico 130 years ago, he proclaimed that in the last hours before the election what would count in voters' minds "is not evidence but attitudes — it's not about the mind but about the heart". His speeches are dramatically simplified from the musings on economics and the

Internet of a few weeks ago. But in the course of each day he repeats only a handful of phrases and the local touch is unfailing. In Little Rock, "it's good to be home and thank you for coming out to say 'Hi'". In San Antonio "in 1992 when I came here with Hillary, I ate about \$200 of that mango ice cream [from a well-known local restaurant] and I've got a little to take with me today". It is a measure of his confidence that his final visits are targeted to help crucial congressional candidates as well as himself. In New Orleans, on the banks of the Mississippi, with his voice hoarse in the freezing wind, he urged voters to back Democratic candidates across the state.

However, despite the effort, these flying visits in the last hours are a risky gamble: they drum up more support, but the massive organisation needed to receive his resolute will divert local volunteers' efforts away from the task of urging people to go to vote.

The military-style logistics are working: early yesterday after 19 hours and 1,500 miles, the presidential cavalcade was only seven minutes behind schedule. It will be clear tomorrow whether the election itself has run to the White House plan.

Peter Riddell, page 22



An indefatigable Bob Dole greets supporters through a backstage curtain after a rally in St Louis, Missouri, on Saturday during his round-the-clock campaign trip

Dole comes out fighting in the Las Vegas ring

FROM TOM RHODES IN LAS VEGAS

IT WAS as if the neon lights, slot machines and early morning card sharps had given Bob Dole a sudden new energy. At 2.30am yesterday, standing inside a mock boxing ring in Las Vegas, the Republican candidate finally found his voice.

In the face of extreme adversity and 41 hours into his round-the-clock four-day marathon campaign tour for the American presidency, the clean-shaven and freshly suited 73-year-old positively bounced onto the stage in the ballroom of the MGM Grand.

Gladys Knight had left hours earlier and Kiss, the glam rock band, had finished their set long before his arrival, leaving a motley collection of leather, platform heels and face paint strangely waving banners for

I will give you a little inside tip here in Las Vegas. Bet on Bob Dole?

Dole. "I'll give you a little inside tip here in Las Vegas," he said. "Bet on Bob Dole."

Wayne Newton, the cabaret singer and promoter known as Mr Vegas, joked of President Clinton's Bridge Over Troubled Whitewater. The candidate was introduced as battling Bob Dole, the 175lb heavyweight from Russell, Kansas, known for his strong finishes. Two boxing gloves hung from a podium which, bearing the simple message "Honest Energy", at one stroke created a metaphor for the scandal-ridden presidency and Mr Dole's ability to knock it down in the final round. The music was from Rocky.

For the first time Mr Dole was grabbing headlines and appeared like a wizened jumping bean in a sea of exhaustion. His wife, Elizabeth, looked worn. Robin, his daughter, was fighting the urge to drop. The assembled media could barely raise a smile as the various metaphors tripped effortlessly from the tongue of a man old enough to be father to some grandfather to others. There

had been a single half hour "shower stop" in Detroit on Friday night. Everyone had slept and dimmed lights on the brief flight between South Dakota and Colorado. Otherwise, the campaign had been a relentless feast of non-stop travel and hot meals.

"He must be getting showers up front or something," muttered one colleague from the New York Post. "The man hasn't been to bed since Thursday night and he's better than ever."

Although most remained sceptical about his chances tomorrow, and indeed viewed this 96-hour

"Victory Tour" as nothing short of insanity, there was a certain grudging respect from even die-hard liberals among the ragged press corps. Speaking without hesitation for 25 minutes, Mr Dole talked of President Clinton's recent campaign

scandals, of returning power to the states and the people, restoring honour to the military and the White House. He even mentioned the disastrous first two years of the Clinton presidency, a useful target so often absent from Dole on the stump.

Liberated at last from the constraints of appearing as a Washington outsider, Mr Dole returned to the role he has always played best, that of legislative mediator. He stumbled occasionally, was a little hoarse and often blundered the audience with his inimitable barrage of Senate jargon. But there was also humour.

"There is only one Bill I want to veto and that's Bill Clinton," he announced to roars from the crowd. California, New Mexico, Arizona and Missouri lay ahead before the final arrival in his native town of Russell, Kansas, tomorrow. The final surge is probably not enough to win Mr Dole the White House but it may save him from the ignominy of absolute defeat.

White House hopes of a landslide begin to crumble

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton's hopes of winning a resounding mandate that would silence his critics in tomorrow's election appeared to be slipping. Conversely, the Republicans were growing increasingly confident of retaining Congress.

There was little doubt Mr Clinton would be comfortably re-elected, but polls suggested the race had tightened to the point where he might fail to achieve his personal goal of winning at least 50 per cent of the

vote. If that happened, Mr Clinton, who achieved only 43 per cent in 1992, would be the first President to win twice without majority support.

A Reuters poll put Mr Clinton less than four points ahead, though two other polls still gave him double-digit leads. Democratic sources acknowledged Mr Clinton's lead had slipped in the Republican South and Rocky Mountain states, but not in California and the Midwest on which his electoral strategy was based. Individual polls showed Mr Dole now virtually level in Georgia, Nevada and Vice-President Al

Gore's Tennessee — all states Mr Clinton carried in 1992.

The tight race came after a week in which the President was battered over his party's solicitation of campaign donations from Asians. Ross Perot appeared to be benefiting from Mr Clinton's slippage, and the Texas billionaire is spending millions on a final advertising blitz.

The congressional elections are much harder to call, but a New York Times survey suggested the Republicans should hold the Senate and could increase their majority. It identified 17 contests that could go

either way, eight for Republican-held seats and nine for Democratic ones, but the Democrats must win all but five to regain the Senate.

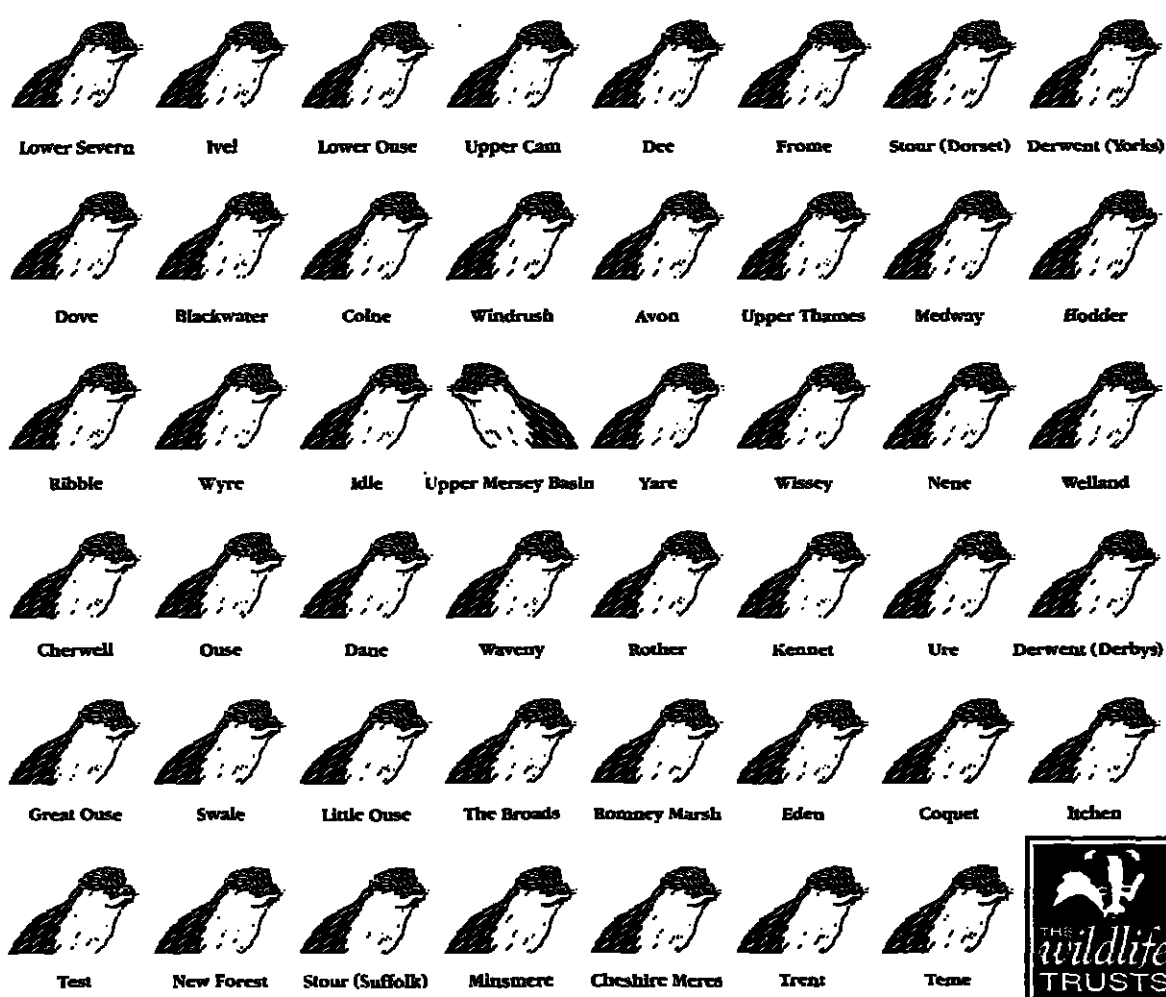
To recapture the House of Representatives the Democrats must gain 18 seats. A Washington Post survey identified 38 Republican districts which the Democrats have a 50 per cent chance of winning, but also 29 Democratic seats where Republican prospects were equally good.

In a desperate \$2.5 million advertising blitz, the Republicans are warning voters not to give the Democrats Congress as well as the

White House. The Christian Coalition yesterday distributed 45 million "voter guides". Mr Clinton even visited his home state of Arkansas to dissuade it from electing its first Republican senator.

The unknown factors are the length of Mr Clinton's coat-tails and whether Mr Dole's dim prospects will depress Republican turnout. Control of the House may not be settled until next month. After late boundary changes, a court ruled that winners of 12 Texas contests must face run-offs on December 10 if they fail to achieve 50 per cent of the vote.

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Arkansas image to get clean-up

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

THE new Governor of Arkansas wants to "rehabilitate the state's image" after the damage it has sustained during the Clinton presidency and the Whitewater affair.

Governor Mike Huckabee, a Republican, will hold an unprecedented series of meetings and "intimate luncheons" with domestic and international opinion formers in New York this month to try to retrieve the Southern state's good name. Dumping the ethics question on President Clinton's doorstep, he said he wanted to show "that in this state we still believe in some old-fashioned values in doing what is right".

The Governor's move was unusual, for home states of Presidents seldom initiate criticism of their famous sons. First Ladies are invited back to open flower shows, and the President's name is given to streets and buildings.

In contrast, Governor Huckabee said that the image of Arkansas during the Clinton years did not reflect truly its "natural beauty, hard-working people and good neighbours" or its "entrepreneurial opportunity". It has not helped that several Arkansas in the Clinton administration have come unstuck.

Religious Right may thwart Kansas women's champion

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX
IN WICHITA, KANSAS



AT THE Prairie Dunes Country Club, a genteel enclave of golf course and tennis courts surrounded by acres of prairie scrub, the mood is iconoclastic. "I shouldn't be here — I'm a Republican," says Carolyn Dillon at a "meet-and-greet" session with Jill Docking, the Democrat who hopes to succeed Bob Dole as a senator for Kansas.

"But I'll vote for Jill," she adds. At her side, Ronnie Sellers interjects: "I'll probably vote for Bob Dole as President — it would be a real shame for him to lose Kansas at the end of his career. But for the Senate, I'll vote for Jill."

It would add insult to injury if Mr Dole's Senate seat, the basis of his life-long political career, were to fall to a Democrat on the day he loses the race for the White House, as seems likely. But while Mr Dole looks certain to carry his home state in the presidential election, the bitter fight for his Senate seat, which he resigned in June, is a cliffhanger.

The battle, which has split Kansas Republicans, is also watched keenly across America. It will show whether the conservative brand of Democratic policy which President Clinton has made the core of his campaign can reach across

traditional party divisions, or whether the far Right and religious Right have the weight to win elections.

In theory, Sam Brownback, the Republican candidate, should be the odds-on favourite to take the seat held for so long by his party. In the race for the other Kansas Senate seat the Republican, Pat Roberts, is well ahead. But as one of Newt Gingrich's revolutionaries, who entered the House of Representatives in 1994, Mr Brownback has a reputation as a far-right radical. He opposes abortion and gun control, and has courted religious groups such as the Christian Coalition.

In contrast Mr Docking, a former stockbroker, is putting forward socially moderate, economically conservative prescriptions. She says that she admires Mr Dole for putting balanced budgets above all — until this year,

when he made tax-cutting the core of his election campaign — and criticises Mr Clinton for shifting "too far to the left" in the first two years of his presidency. She married into a prominent Kansas family — her husband was the state's Lieutenant-Governor and her father-in-law the Governor.

To win, "I need cross-over Republicans", she says. Many Republican women have been alienated by Mr Brownback's support for cuts in environmental programmes and education, and by his stance on abortion and family values.

Mrs Docking is a formidable campaigner, warm and energetic. But she will have a tough fight. Mr Brownback, a young-looking 40, is also personable and fluent. In a highly-charged television debate with Mrs Docking on Wednesday, he insisted forcefully: "I am not extreme."

He also appears to have the advantage of more money. Above all, it is the influence of right-wing religious groups which may prove decisive. In Wichita, candidates associated with religious groups have taken over many political jobs at precinct and town level. Yesterday the Christian Coalition was bombarding churchgoers with leaflets in support of Mr Brownback. Its cash and formidable organisation may give him victory.

Cyberspace pranksters join the battle

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE 1996 election will go down in history as the first US presidential contest waged in cyberspace and may break profound changes on future campaigns.

With an estimated 12 per cent of the American electorate now able to gain access to the worldwide computer network, hundreds of sites have been set up to report on and ridicule the candidates. Visionaries predict that the Internet — particularly the booming graphics portion known as the World Wide Web — will transform American politics in the same way television did in the 1960s.

Many hope the computer network will promote a more participatory democracy. Because of the low cost of the Internet, minor candidates can reach the same number of voters online as the main contenders. This year every candidate from President Clinton to Dr John Hagelin of the Natural Law Party has his own web site — as do some candidates who are not officially in the race, such as Fidel Castro, the Unabomber and Kermit the Frog.

Most of the candidates' sites offer stodgy publicity photographs and recycled policy speeches, although Bob Dole's includes a crossword puzzle with clues including "the name of the candidate's

dog". Voters might be surprised, however, if they try to contact the Clinton campaign on the obvious address of www.clinton96.org or the Dole organisation as www.dole96.org.

Both Internet addresses were hacked early in the game by pranksters and are devoted to mocking the respective candidates. (The official sites are at www.c96.org and www.d96.com.) "We haven't won this one yet," a faux-Clinton says on one of the spoof sites. "Aliens could still invade and endorse Bob Dole." The satirical Dole site reports that the Republican challenger has no hope of winning, but does offer "the

ultimate protest vote". There are pages devoted to Hillary Clinton's 320 known hairdos, and the President's secret encounter with an extra-terrestrial. Ross Perot is the target of an online magazine.

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Jason Leonard and Harlequins lead the way into the Heineken Cup quarter-finals
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JOHN HANCOCK
Oliver Holt opens a series on a celebrated sporting city
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LAURA DAVIES
Laura Davies is set to top golf's money lists on both sides of the Atlantic
PAGE 28

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY NOVEMBER 4 1996



Despite the attentions of Vickers and Cox, the Middlesbrough defenders, Beardsley manages to steer the ball home for his, and Newcastle's, second goal yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Captain celebrates 700th appearance by taking Newcastle to top of Premiership

Beardsley retains lasting quality

Newcastle United 3
Middlesbrough 1

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THERE still is magic born and bred on the Tyne. As Newcastle United regained the leadership of the FA Cup Premier'ship before 36,577 impassioned spectators yesterday evening, the story revolved not around the League

aged to spot the ballboy the instant he opened the scoring with a penalty, to rush to him, to pass from father to son the love engrained in the Geordie. Yes, that lucky ballboy, was Drew, his son.

"I scored two on my 600th appearance as well, I wish these matches would come around more often," Beardsley said. "But it was a hell of a derby game, and you know that you have to win the battle first, then let football take over. Luckily, we overcame them."

Luck? What has that got to do with this tale? Beardsley's footballing career began more than 17 years ago in rejection: Gillingham and Cambridge United, for heaven's sake, thought this diminutive man would never have the tenacity for the game. His father, a long-distance lorry driver, kept insisting: "Don't worry Golden Feet, you'll make it." And, after a year and a half in industry, sweeping factory floors, Beardsley finally took over on the long adventure that neither he nor his manager, Kevin Keegan, see as even close to conclusion.

When the man of the match said the battle had first to be won, he spoke with bruised reality. There was a high wind, and high temper, tug-

ging at the composure of the players. This was the Tyne-Tees affair, and when two such rivers meet, you can expect turbulence. Indeed, such was the pride with which Middlesbrough crossed the county boundary, that the early ebb and flow was with them.

Emerson appeared like a magnet to the midfield skirmishing. In the 56th minute, as he charged towards Batty, unconcerned about reputa-

tions, the Brazilian tried an inventive loop of the ball. Batty never saw it, the two collided with a force that you could almost feel in the stands. Emerson was first to his feet but, like a boxer with delayed concussion, suddenly his legs buckled, he fell and felt for blood in his left ear.

Inevitably, Batty and Emerson were among the five bookings, but amid the fury, with Emerson the enduring fulcrum of the team in red,

there was also beauty. It came from the Brazilian as, breath-takingly, he managed to nutmeg Ferdinand while he was actually moving sideways. However, Emerson and Gary Willard, the referee, became the butt of crowd hostility after the player appeared to flatten Beardsley with an arm or an elbow off the ball.

But Beardsley, too, has powers of recuperation. In the fortieth minute, after Cox, another of those booked,

fouled Ginola, Beardsley took responsibility for the penalty. He had missed his last one, against Ferencvaros four days earlier; without a nerve and showing he smote this one high and straight past Walsh.

The penalty created a small furore, however. Cox admitted to his manager, Bryan Robson, that he "dived in" with the tackle, rather than attempt the customary excuse that Ginola dived to ground; the boot of the Middlesbrough back did,

admittedly, take the most willing leg in the Premiership.

The pulsating exchanges had more than intemperance, more than guile and effort and beauty. It had sheer pantomime laced into it as well. In the 69th minute Juninho, who spent much of the game as a left winger being tracked by Gillespie, took on Albert. It was fleeting and farcical: the 5ft 5in Brazilian squaring up to the 6ft 3in Belgian. He must have addressed his anger round about waist-high to Albert and, therefore, could not have seen the huge grin on the Belgian's face.

Almost in the same instance, the ball was cleared straight through the middle, Ferdinand flicked it on to space and, impossibly and inevitably, Beardsley was homing in to score with an instant shot inside the far post.

Six minutes later Beardsley was hunting his hat-trick, but Walsh denied him with a deflection over the bar. From the corner, the ball was only half-cleared and fell to Lee, who unleashed a shot of power that deflected into the net off Vickers.

It took Newcastle's tally to 12 goals in their past three home games. "We never got round to the slick passing we are supposed to be about,"

Keegan said. "Physically, that is the hardest game we have had this season. Middlesbrough stand up to be counted, and we proved we can battle and be resilient."

Likewise Middlesbrough. In the final flourish they still refused to lie down. Juninho produced a shot that Srnicek could not hold, but Beck somehow sliced his shot up against the crossbar, even though he was standing virtually beneath it. Three minutes

Liverpool routed 29
Ferguson's woe 30
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from time, though, the Dane made amends.

Ravanelli was, at that moment, standing irately over Ginola and, as they argued, Stamp — a home grown Teessider — produced the through ball for Beck to score. It deprived Newcastle of a clean sheet, but gave Middlesbrough a proper consolation. NEWCASTLE UNITED 12-5-3: P. Snickel — D. Peacock, P. Albion, R. Elliott — K. Gillespie (sub. W. Barton 82min), D. Galt, P. Beardsley, P. Lee, D. Ginola — F. Aschella, L. Ferdinand. MIDDLESBROUGH 4-3-1-2: G. Watson — N. Cox, S. Vickers, D. Whyte, C. Fleming — P. Stamp, Emerson, R. Mustoe — Juninho — M. Beck, F. Ravanelli. Referee: G. Willard

TOP OF TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	12	9	0	3	23	13	27
Arsenal	12	7	4	1	23	10	25
Wimbledon	12	7	2	3	20	18	23
Liverpool	11	7	2	2	20	11	23
Chelsea	12	6	4	2	21	17	20

of Nations players remarkably drawn into an area once destitute, but around Peter Beardsley, playing his 700th competitive club match in England.

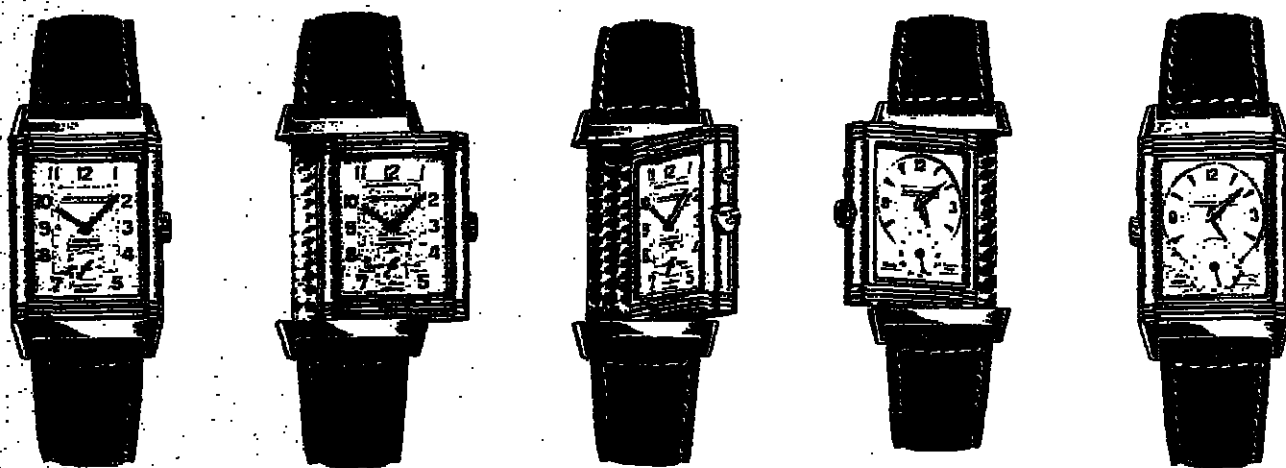
Beardsley captained Newcastle, the club he had supported as a boy. He scored, almost inevitably, the first two goals: he was almost decapitated off the ball by Middlesbrough's energetic Brazilian, Emerson; and, nearing his 30th birthday, still with enthusiasm to burn, Beardsley man-



BEARDSLEY STILL MAKING HEADLINES
PETER BEARDSLEY, 38, made his 700th senior appearance yesterday when Newcastle United played Middlesbrough. Newcastle's born, he played for Wallisend Boys Club before turning professional with Carlisle United in August 1979. In his 700 matches he has scored 235 goals and the 30th goal in two spots with Newcastle has scored 115 goals. His moves have cost him more than £5 million. He has made 57 appearances for England, scoring 10 goals (1985-95) and two Championship medals (1988, 1990) and an FA Cup winners medal (1985) with Liverpool.

DETAILS OF A 17-YEAR CAREER									
			League		FA Cup		League cup		Other
			Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	
Aug 1979	Carlisle United		194	22	15	7	7	0	
Sept 1982	Manchester United		0	0	0	0	1	0	
Sept 1983	Newcastle United		147	81	6	0	19	0	1 0
July 1987	Liverpool		131	46	25	11	14	1	5 1
Aug 1991	Everton		81	25	4	1	6	5	2 1
July 1995	Newcastle United		111	44	10	3	10	4	6 3
TOTAL			574	198	60	22	50	10	16 5

ANOTHER TIME.
ANOTHER FACE.
REVERSO DUO.



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BBC must act to avoid Grandstand finish

Nine days ago, *Grandstand*, the BBC's long-running and much-loved Saturday afternoon flagship, hit rock-bottom. "Pretty simple this afternoon," a dejected-looking Steve Rider said, "it's racing and snooker all the way." He was right. Racing and snooker it was, all the way to Final Score. Many more Saturdays like that and *Grandstand* could soon be going the same way as *World of Sport*. Remember that — racing and wrestling all the way to Dickie Davies?

On Saturday, however, Dougie Donnelly was able to put a slightly braver face on things. Sure, there was racing — there always is racing — but he also had a live international and motor racing. Donnelly looked suitably enthusiastic. The only problem was that the live international was netball

and the motor racing, the Formula Ford Festival from Brands Hatch, was, astonishingly, almost a fortnight old.

There is a long tradition of mocking netball which, apart from saying that I will be surprised if a zonal, non-contact sport with no running is quite the answer to the BBC's Saturday afternoon prayers, I do not intend to join. The international between England and Jamaica was live and Hazel Irvine and the organisers worked hard to turn the players into people.

Netball may be the wrong sport, but this approach has to be the right one if *Grandstand* is to survive. If other channels have bought up your crown jewels, you either give up or you get up off your corporate backside and go and make some more. That is exactly what



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

Eurosport plans to do it, as seems virtually certain now, it loses live coverage of Formula One next season. Rather than sulking, the satellite channel is throwing the might of its still rather limited resources behind IndyCar racing in the United States. The channel is sponsoring Mark Blundell, qualifying sessions will be shown live for the first time and Ben Edwards moves over from Formula One to be on site for every race, replacing the American commentary that the channel has taken

until now. If it does not work, it will not be for lack of trying. Compare and contrast that with the BBC's response to date to the loss of Formula One to ITV. Formula Ford races are the perfect length for a programme such as *Grandstand*, with the semi-finals from the festival lasting less than 12 minutes and the final lasting only three or four minutes longer. All-too-limited highlights, with commentary provided by my colleague, Stephen Slater, showed just what good television it could

provide, given the chance. But it is not to be.

For, despite all sorts of nice young men popping up to enthuse about following in the tyre-marks of Irvine, Herbert, Schumacher and Hill, the BBC apparently has no plans to extend its coverage of this Formula One training ground. For a sports department running out of live sport as fast as the BBC's is, this looks like an opportunity missed.

To be fair, this apparent apathy is shared by Sky, which holds the rights to Formula Three coverage. Despite the massive growth of interest in Formula One in recent years, it, too, has no plans to move to live coverage of the British championship next year and will continue with highlights. Several times last week, Sky

showed a well-edited review of the season, which revealed that, while Formula Three may not have the household names of the senior division, it offers a lot more in the way of competitive racing. This is motor racing as it used to be.

In a fortnight's time, you will wonder what I am on about. Between now and Christmas, *Grandstand* has some cracking live rugby union, thanks largely to the touring Australians. Then, before we know it, there will be skiing, a valedictory Five Nations' Championship, the Grand National, the Boat Race, cricket, Wimbledon. Suddenly all will be right with the BBC world.

Come next autumn, though, unless the BBC starts to make some positive and innovative plans now, *Grandstand* could be in all sorts of trouble.

GOLF

Davies on course to head both money lists

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

LAURA DAVIES wants to finish 1996 as the leading money-winner in both Europe, her home continent, and the United States. This is one of the few records in women's golf that has not yet fallen to Davies, the longest hitter and the biggest draw in the game.

Davies, 33, won the 1996 European order of merit for the fourth time last month. She moved nearer to winning the United States equivalent when she finished second in the Toray Queens Cup in Japan yesterday. Her winnings of \$69,819 (around £42,000) were sufficient for her to pass Karrie Webb, 21, the Australian who has taken the US LPGA tour by storm in her rookie season, and move to the top of the LPGA money list with one event remaining. So now it will all come down

her to win by three strokes. She did it knowing that Webb, meanwhile, was playing in the lucrative World Championship of Women's Golf in Korea, which presented her with the opportunity to move well ahead of Davies. Webb, however, only finished sixth.

Davies started the fourth round in Inashiki four strokes behind Mayumi Hirase, of Japan. It was the sort of situation she loves. She needed to go for everything to stand any chance and go for everything she did. Davies eagled the 18th for a round of 68 that put her into a play-off with Hirase.

The two women each birdied the first extra hole and each got pars at the second. On the third, Davies missed from three feet, her ball grazing the hole before swinging off to the right. Hirase then stepped up to hole her putt for her first victory on the US tour and her seventeenth victory in her eight years as a professional.

Davies last won the US order of merit in 1994, the year that she won at least one event in the United States, Europe, Asia, Japan and Australia and finished No 1 in the world rankings. She won one in four of the events she entered and had five second places and three thirds.

In 1996 she has won two major championships — the McDonald's LPGA Championship and the du Maurier Classic — as well as six others and £750,000 in prize-money around the world. Probably the only disappointment she has had was the way Europe capitulated in the singles of the Solheim Cup. The US won the singles 10-2. Davies losing her match on the 16th.

For Davies, golf is a living but it is one to enjoy, along with playing snooker, supporting Liverpool, and kicking around on the full-size football pitch at her home in Ormersley, Surrey. And for more excitement, she climbs into her second-hand Ferrari and goes for a burn-up. Davies, in short, is something of a phenomenon. As someone who likes a flutter, she may feel at home enough in Las Vegas to win the US money list, too, and bring down the curtain on her most exceptional year to date.



Davies: Las Vegas finale

to how well Davies, \$45,000 ahead, and Webb play in the ITT LPGA Tour Championship in Las Vegas, starting on November 21. If Davies becomes the leading player on both sides of the Atlantic, then she will have done what Annika Sorenstam, the young Swede, did last year.

Davies captured the European title in Sicily two weeks ago. It was her fourth "home" victory this season and her 48th career win. Even having to stay in a nursery, where the water was icy cold when she took a morning shower, did not stop Davies. Nor did high winds on the fourth day.

She was in front from the start at Il Picciolo, holding a lead of seven strokes after 54 holes. She was so far ahead that a final round of 76, three over par, was good enough for



Enqvist hits a powerful backhand on his way to the Paris Open title yesterday

Enqvist stands tall to block Kafelnikov's advance

FROM ALEX RAMSAY IN PARIS

YEVGENY KAFELNIKOV'S chances of overtaking Pete Sampras at the top of the world tennis rankings by the end of the year became that much slimmer yesterday when he lost the Paris Open final to Thomas Enqvist, of Sweden, 6-2, 6-4, 7-5. It was the first time Enqvist had reached a Mercedes Super Nine final and, once there, he wasted little time in picking up the \$393,000 (about £247,000) winner's cheque.

Not that Kafelnikov was in any mood to hang about either. The Russian was aiming for his second Paris double this year. Having won the singles and the doubles, with Daniel Vacek, at the French Open, he had been burning the midnight oil this week to try to repeat the feat. In the end it all appeared to catch up with him. A long three-set victory over Byron Black and Grant Connell in the doubles, soon after a three-set singles semi-final win over Petr Korda, was not the best preparation for a sparkling final.

Within ten minutes the French Open champion was 4-0 down and looking distinctly tired. Then again, it was his 158th match of the year and his season still has three weeks left to run. He was broken in the opening game as Enqvist found his range with his ground strokes, and before long the set had whistled by him. As Kafelnikov made error after error on his backhand even the French crowd, one of the most excitable on the European circuit, fell silent. They had expected better than this but Kafelnikov could not rise to the occasion.

As for Enqvist, who is coached by the former player and his best friend, Joakim Nyström, he had finally hit top form this week after an inconsistent year. Against Edberg and Gustafsson, in the quarter and semi-finals, he had been too strong and too good, hitting the lines with pace and power, but against Kafelnikov he never needed to reach those heights. Only at the start of the third set did he

faller slightly, dropping his service to go 2-0 down.

The danger did not last long, however. Enqvist turned up the heat on that fierce backhand to break back to 2-3 and then levelled the scores with three aces to win his serve to love. From then on a succession of aces — 20 in all — kept Kafelnikov at bay. It was a bit too much for Kafelnikov, who eventually gave up the ghost and his own service to go 5-6 down and then stood back to watch Enqvist serve out the match with four more aces.

It all leaves Carl Axel Hageskog, the Sweden Davis Cup captain, with an interesting problem. With Edberg reaching the quarter-finals, Gustafsson reaching the semi-finals and Enqvist winning the title, who does he leave out of the team to play France in the final later this month? Maybe that was what was keeping the Parisian crowd so quiet.

Results, page 40

SNOOKER

Ali pushes Pakistan to brink of last eight

By PHIL YATES

SHOWKAT ALI, a Pakistani professional based in Accrington, Lancashire, can decide the fate of two nations when the round-robin phase of the World Cup is concluded in Bangkok today.

All the world No 76, has been the mainstay of a Pakistan side that stands on the verge of the quarter-finals, provided that they enjoy a favourable result against the group C leaders, England.

Three more frame successes in the 7-2 triumph over China yesterday gives Ali, 26, an aggregate of seven wins from the nine frames he has contested. The England team, consisting of Nigel Bond, Peter Ebdon and Ronnie O'Sullivan, will provide substantially sterner opposition than China, the United Arab Emirates and the hosts, Thailand.

However, by securing five frames from the tournament's second favourites, the Pakistani team of Ali, Farhan Mirza and Saleh Mohammad will clinch the runner-up spot. Even a 9-0 victory for Thailand over the Emirates would not prevent that surprise elimination. Local pride has been sufficiently stung to warrant abusive calls to the Thai media at the Amari Watergate Hotel venue.

"I thought we had a chance of reaching the quarter-finals," Ali said. "I was just a bit worried how my teammates would react to the pressure of the big occasion. So far, they've handled themselves very well."

The Northern Ireland trio of Dennis Taylor, Joe Swail and Terry Murphy breathed a collective sigh of relief when Belgium recovered from a 5-1 deficit to lose only 5-4 against New Zealand in a vital group A match.

Mark Canavan lost the seventh frame to Bjorn Haneveer on the black, Daniel Haenga surrendered a 40-point advantage in the next while Dene O'Kane, the New Zealand captain, saw the ninth snatched from his grasp after missing a black off his spot when 49-12 ahead with only two reds remaining.

With Belgium on 17 points, having already completed their schedule, and Iceland out of contention, Northern Ireland have only to avoid losing 6-3 or worse, against New Zealand, who are on 13, today to finish second in the group and guarantee their progress to the quarter-finals.

South Africa bowed out despite a 5-4 victory over Singapore that included three more wins for Silvio Francisco.

England A beaten in opening tour match

ENGLAND A frustrated the New South Wales XI's hopes of wrapping up a rapid victory, but still slipped to an expected nine-wicket defeat on the opening match of their Australian tour in Tamworth yesterday.

Resuming on 132 for five on the final day, still 43 runs away from making NSW bat again, they delayed the Australians' victory celebrations until mid-afternoon after another composed display from 19-year-old batsman Owais Shah. The Middlesex schoolboy, who top-scored in the first innings with 76, batted for nearly 3½ hours to score a determined 79 as England were bowled out for 217.NSW took only 17.1 overs to reach their victory target, for the loss of one wicket.

Stuart MacGill, the leg-spinner, finally ended Shah's resistance, finishing with five for 84 to claim nine wickets in the match. England A now travel to Adelaide for a one-day match and four-day game against South Australia.

Foreman retains title

BOXING: George Foreman defeated another challenger for his world heavyweight title in Tokyo yesterday and then said he was prepared to meet HIV-infected Tommy Morrison, who scored a first-round knockout win in his comeback. Foreman, 47, said he was "ready to fight anybody, anywhere, anytime for a certain amount of money", after retaining his World Boxing Union title with a unanimous decision over fellow-American Crawford Grimsley.

Foreman, however, could not put his title at stake against Morrison because the WBU will not sanction fights with HIV-infected boxers. Morrison, 27, finished off another American, Marcus Rhode, in 98 seconds with three knockdowns in his first fight since announcing in February that he was HIV-positive.

Matulik traps Panthers

ICE HOCKEY: The three Superleague games on Saturday failed to produce a home winner. Cardiff Devils needed a goal from Ivan Matulik with 11 seconds left in overtime to gain a 3-2 win at Nottingham Panthers but, in Sheffield, the Steelers and Newcastle Cobras had to settle for a 2-2 draw after a scoreless overtime period. Manchester Storm travelled home from Bracknell with a 3-1 win over the Bees.

Langer ends long wait

GOLF: Bernhard Langer, right, ended his 13-month spell without a victory when he won the Alfred Dunhill Masters in Hong Kong yesterday. The German shot a final-round 65 for a 17-under-par total of 267 to win by two strokes from Kang Wook-soon, of South Korea, who had a final-round 66. Third-round leader Scott Laycock, of Australia, was a further stroke adrift after a closing 71.



India have the final say

CRICKET: India secured a dramatic victory over Australia in Mohali yesterday to earn a place in the final of the Titan Cup against South Africa, in Bombay on Wednesday. Australia, chasing a target of 280, were given hope by Mark Taylor, who scored 78 off 91 balls, but eventually fell five runs short when Brad Hogg was run out on the first ball of the final over.

Directors replaced

CYCLING: The British Cycling Federation has replaced its board of directors with an emergency committee following unrest by the organisation's membership and concern by the Sports Council about the federation's efficiency. □ Brothers Peter and David Willemsens, of Belgium, dominated the 27km event at the Eastway circuit, London, yesterday, with Barrie Clarke, of Britain, fifth.

Britons tumble out

BOWLS: Stuart Airey, of Cumbria went out in the second round, and Andy Wills, of Cheltenham, in the quarter-finals of the International Singles Classic in Hong Kong. They were beaten by the eventual finalists, Gerry Baker, of Johannesburg, and John Noonan, of Adelaide, 25-21 and 25-7 respectively. Noonan went on to defeat Baker in the final.

Belles win to stay top

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL: A narrow victory by Doncaster Belles over Liverpool ensured that the Premier National League leaders kept ahead of the chasing pack of London teams, who are waiting to take advantage of any slip from the North's sole representative in the top half of the table. Croydon, Arsenal and Wembley also won, with the latter two clubs scoring seven goals apiece.

Menu tastes victory

MOTOR SPORT: Alain Menu, runner-up in the British Touring Car Championship for the past three years, won yesterday's Autosport RAC Tourist Trophy at Donington Park after dominating the event from start to finish. Menu, of Switzerland, effortlessly regained the ground that he lost during the two compulsory pit-stops to win the 80-lap, 156.5-mile race easing up in his Renault Laguna.

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FOOTBALL: HENDRY AND SUTTON COME OFF INJURY LIST TO INSPIRE BLACKBURN'S FIRST WIN OF SEASON

Liverpool blocked by Rovers' return



Hendry, left, a mighty force for Blackburn after coming back from injury, slides in to dispossess Berger during the 3-0 demolition of Liverpool at Ewood Park yesterday

Blackburn Rovers 3
Liverpool 0

By DAVID MILLER

THE boast that the FA Carling Premiership is the best league in the world was shown to be hollow long ago. Just occasionally, the claim seems credible again, as when Blackburn Rovers, rooted to the bottom of the table, handsomely outplayed one of the front-runners. What a blood-stirring surprise this was.

With the granite figure of Hendry back in central defence after an operation and the willowy Sutton returning to lead the attack, this is no cowering remnant of a former champion team. Often denying Liverpool the time to think, let alone weave an attack, Blackburn played a brand of football at times superior to the functional days of Dalglish: the hit-the-flanks, meet-the-crosses regime of the Wilcox-Ripley and Shearer-Sutton partnerships.

Hendry made Liverpool's defence look anaemic by comparison, effectively putting Fowler in his pocket, though the young England forward had scant support. The consuming challenge of McKinlay, recruited from Dundee United, recalled the

dynamism of Billy Bremner. Sutton's skill on the ball, which was the cause of the penalty, after only three minutes, that sent Blackburn's spirits soaring, was constantly perplexing. His masterfully-headed goal, Blackburn's third, ten minutes into the second half, made certain of their first victory in 12 games.

Tony Parkes, their caretaker manager, has transformed morale, building new hope around a 4-5-1 formation. West Ham were all but defeated last week at Upton Park, and the same brand of tenacity reduced Liverpool's polished act to ragged disorganisation and hesitancy.

Yesterday, with Ewood Park full to the brim, Blackburn's midfield took Liverpool apart, exposing alarming uncertainty in the rearguard trio of Wright, Matteo and Babb. With Liverpool two down after half an hour and running scared, Roy Evans, their manager, was obliged to regroup his forces and his formation, from 3-5-2 to 4-4-2. To no avail.

Bjornebye, who had taken a knock early on, was replaced by Redknapp. Thomas switched from central midfield to the right flank to try to subdue Wilcox, while McManaman moved to the left flank and Redknapp partnered a bemused Barnes in the

centre. Evans must have been tempted to substitute Barnes, his captain, so tough was the treatment being imposed on him by the opposition.

For the 15 minutes after Redknapp's introduction, Liverpool prospered, constantly counter attacking. They could not cut the lead. Blackburn held firm, and in the second half were seldom seriously threatened. So much of Liverpool's

Ferguson's pledge 30
Spirited Wimbledon 31
Resolute Moly 32

game is built on one touch. Too often that was all they got.

"This could be the first game of the season for Blackburn," Parkes said. "Now it's onwards and upwards. It was the third goal that clinched it, because 2-1 could have been difficult for us. We wanted to force Liverpool to change [their tactics], but when they did it knocked us off guard temporarily."

Parke said that he would not be putting his hat in the ring for the vacant job, and would not accept it if offered. "I'm quite competent, it's the third time I've been caretaker, but

they'll be looking for a big name," he said.

Evans was his usual dispassionate self. "A very poor team performance," he said. "We were careless, and you've got to realise you can't always pass the ball about, that you've got to clear your lines. We didn't chuck it [give up], but seldom looked like saving it. They made our passing game difficult."

They did indeed. Parkes reflected that the 4-5-1 formation that he had used for the past two matches has offered the players something different, a challenge to enjoy, and they have responded. The whistle had barely blown for the start before Liverpool found themselves in difficulty, so pressured that they were passing more backwards than forwards. With only three minutes gone Babb, in desperation, fouled Sutton, who, with hardly a glance behind him, picked up the ball and walked straight to the penalty spot while the referee was busy administering a yellow card.

With 12 minutes gone, McKinlay was booked for a foul on Berger, one of his many moments of excess, but hard as Liverpool tried to keep calm, they were being hustled into repeated errors. With a quarter of an hour gone, James missed a swirling cross

from Gallacher and Flitcroft headed wide. Liverpool were clearly groggy. They went two down after 22 minutes. A feeble, misjudged back-pass by Barnes put Babb in trouble. He failed to control the ball and was robbed by Flitcroft. Again Gallacher swung the ball over. James and Wright thought about going for the ball, did not, and Wilcox, coming in to meet it from the left, thumped it into the net.

Redknapp brought some semblance of co-ordination to Liverpool's ranks. Fowler sent a searing shot over the bar. Barnes, from an opening created by Redknapp, likewise shot too high. Berger went close with a low one and Barnes, offered a further chance by McManaman, forced Flowers to turn the ball round the post.

For Liverpool, that was about it. Sutton's glancing header from Gallacher's low, diagonal cross, left Liverpool shredded. Today they will need not so much training as therapy.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-5-1) T. Flowers — J. Hendry, H. Berg, C. Hendry, G. Le Saux — K. Gallacher (sub. I. Becham, 70min), I. Sheenwood, G. Flitcroft, W. McKinlay, J. Wilcox — C. Sutton.
LIVERPOOL (3-5-2) D. James — M. Wright, D. Matteo, P. Babb — J. McManaman, S. McManaman, M. Thomas, J. Barnes, S. Bjornebye (sub. J. Redknapp, 31) — R. Fowler, P. Berger (sub. S. Collymore, 55).
Referee: S. Lodge

Why I would have backed players' strike

STEVE McMANAMAN



on an issue that has united PFA members

I can see myself now, outside Anfield at 3am, throwing spuds on a brazer, woolly hat on my head and placard in my hand. In reality, it wouldn't be so dramatic, but I would go on strike for my union, and I think that the overwhelming majority of my fellow players would do the same. That was the clear message when the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) balloted its Nationwide League members recently.

The dispute with the Football League did not involve FA Carling Premiership players, but I know there is strong support from all the players for Gordon Taylor and his position on the union's slice of television money.

It looks as though the dispute has been resolved, and I'm glad, because it is an issue the players do feel strongly about. The union deserves a fair slice of television money, because it does great things for its members — and don't forget that it is the members who generate all that television money in the first place.

I have heard the players accused of being greedy for wanting this money, but that is missing the point. It is not the players earning thousands a week who are benefiting most from this, but the less fortunate members.

The union does a huge amount of work for all the players, but particularly those from the smaller clubs. It puts on courses, helps injured players, helps in retraining and helps many of them survive.

When they are injured, out of the game, whatever, the union helps. It's simply not a question of players going on strike to earn more money, but to ensure the welfare of those people that help generate the money that is now pouring into the game. It is such a powerful union because we all stick together.

It would be easy for the top players to ignore the needs of the lower-division clubs but it is important for the game that we don't. It needs players coming through to survive, and many of the top players came from the lower leagues originally.

If there wasn't the support system, then many would not emerge. Remember, there are thousands of members in the PFA, and only a fraction of them are earning the sort of money people read about. Is it wrong of the union to want to stand by agreements going back decades so that it can help the players that need it?

I think some people have been getting the issue confused. They seem to think it is greedy players wanting to cash in, wanting to earn even more money. People see top players earning decent wages and immediately think they are greedy — that all footballers are greedy.

Some players are on massive wages but, believe me, a lot of the figures are exaggerated. People have said to me that nurses should be on more than footballers and there is no doubt that they should be getting a lot more for what

they do. There is a moral issue there and, in some ways, you do question whether there should be so much money in football. But on the other hand, there is no doubt that the top footballers are generating that money. The game obviously would be worth nothing without its players, so why shouldn't the players get a decent share of the spoils?

I'm not saying that the players should get all the money — there's no point in players earning huge salaries if their stadium is falling down. Nobody wants to see clubs going bust either, so the money should be channelled down to the lower divisions to ensure that there is a healthy structure.

It should be remembered that every player has a limited shelf life, a relatively short career. On top of that, we run the risk of injury that could end our careers at any stage, and everyone wants to look after their families, to provide security for their future. If the money is there, it would be foolish not to take it when you examine your long-term prospects.

Every player is under pressures, too, pressures that may be did not exist ten or 20 years ago. We are in the public eye and often perceived as role models. That is why the problems surrounding Paul Gascoigne have been such big news recently.

He has been condemned, but Glenn Hoddle has stood by him. I know Gazza, but I don't know what happens in his private life. Nobody knows the pressures Gazza experiences, except him. It is an emotive issue, but without knowing what he and his family have gone through, it would be wrong to pass judgment. How can anyone, except those that know the facts?

There are so many things for players to cope with and that's why players need support, from each other and from their professional body.

Again, that's where the union comes in. When a player is finished, he is no use to a club, and will be eased out of the door, perhaps without a future. Where do we turn? That is why I would strike for my union — and that is why the PFA enjoys such widespread support among its members.

Ferguson injury keeps Royle and Brown waiting

By PETER BALL



Barmby: Everton debut

NICK BARMBY, Everton's record signing, makes his debut against Coventry City at Goodison Park tonight, but he may have to wait to begin a partnership with Duncan Ferguson. Ferguson, the Everton striker, has a calf strain, and may not be fit to return after his month-long lay-off because of a groin injury and suspension. "We'll give him every chance," Joe Royle, the manager, said yesterday, "but at the moment he is very doubtful."

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, was intending to watch Ferguson this evening in the hope that he will be

available for the World Cup qualifying match against Sweden on Sunday. If Ferguson misses the game tonight, though, he is unlikely to be able to join the squad.

Everton have won their past three games without Ferguson and now have to accommodate Barmby, their £5.75 million signing from Middlesbrough. Royle has been coy about exactly how he intends to use Barmby in the long term, but tonight he is expected to play at the front, replacing either Michael Branch or Graham Stuart.

Blackburn Rovers' first win in the FA Carling Premiership yesterday

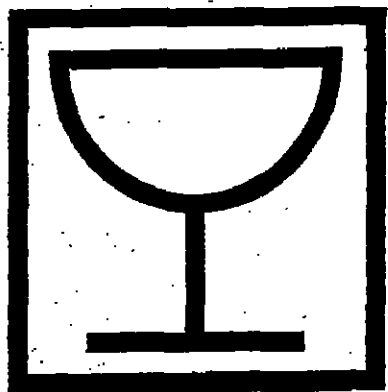
means matters are even tighter at the bottom, making the game even more important for Coventry. They will be without Dublin, leaving their attack in the hands of Whelan and either Jess or Ndlovu. "It seems that whenever we get a player fit, someone else gets an injury," Ron Atkinson, the Coventry manager, said. "I've never known a club like this for injuries."

Savo Milosevic's move from Aston Villa to Perugia was on hold yesterday because the Italian club apparently changed their mind about paying Villa's £4.5 million asking price. "The problem is definitely at the Perugia end," Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman,

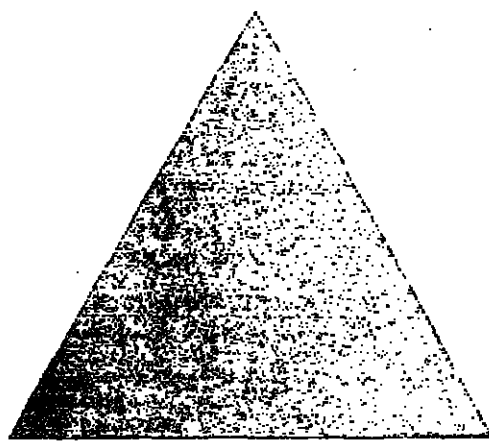
said. "As far as we are concerned, we've shaken hands on the transfer and agreed everything."

Jim Fallon yesterday resigned as manager of Dumbarton, the team who are second from bottom of the Bell's Scottish League second division, insisting he had decided to leave before the 5-0 defeat by Livingston on Saturday. "I had told the directors on Thursday that I was going — win, lose or draw," Fallon said.

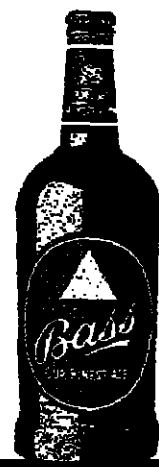
"Football is an enjoyment as far as I am concerned, but I am not enjoying it at the moment. However, I would like to get back into the game some time in the future."



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Ferguson pledges to reopen case for the defence

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FOOTBALL: GAYLE'S FORCE BRINGS WIMBLEDON REWARD FOR SPIRITED APPROACH

Vieira adds to Arsenal armoury

Michael Henderson finds welcome signs of skill and subtlety from the north London team in the 2-2 draw at Selhurst Park

DON'T tell me! Wimbledon versus Arsenal. It was like walking round town with a nail in your boot. Well, it was not pretty. There was some shoddy football, and some nastiness, but there were also indications that Arsenal are trying to shed something of their bad old ways. Vieira can play a bit, and Wright is still good for a goal or two, whatever else one might think about him. They tried to pass the ball, and one does not see that every Saturday at Selhurst Park, or at Highbury.

Should Arsenal have won there? They will be disappointed not to have done. They could easily have been three goals clear in the first half of the first half. It was a nice header, but Arsenal had been much the better team up to that point, and they looked more likely to win afterwards, denied only when Gayle bundled the ball across the line. Still, you have to award Wimbledon high marks for their pluck. They keep grinding out "results".

Who took the eye? Vieira, without a doubt. From a distance he resembles Carlton Palmer, but do not let that put you off. Whereas

Palmer makes a virtue of imprecision, Vieira looks handy on the ball, and moves well with it. He made the first goal for Wright by blocking Ekoku on the edge of his own box, striding 40 yards and releasing Wright with just the pass he needed. From his position in front of the back five, Vieira is likely to make an impression this season.

So Wright scored again. Is he worth his England summons?

In short, no. You do not become an international-class goal poacher at the age of 33. He remains a marvellous snapper-up for his club, but his tendency to see himself as a latter-day St Sebastian is tiresome. Perhaps Arsène Wenger, whose command of English is better than Wright's, can persuade him to moon a bit less at referees and linesmen, whose jobs are hardly less difficult than his own. He is such a strutter.

Didn't he save Jones from the chopp?

There was a bit of a kerfuffle after Arsenal's second goal,

though it was difficult to determine exactly what was going on. A minute before there had been some scuffling in the Arsenal penalty area, and this was the residue of that incident. Apparently Wright intervened on Jones's behalf, which impressed Joe Kinnear, who called him a "good pro". Where professionalism is concerned, of course, professionals are not always the most reliable witnesses. By

their standards, the best pro of all was probably Jack the Ripper.

Are Arsenal good enough to challenge for the title?

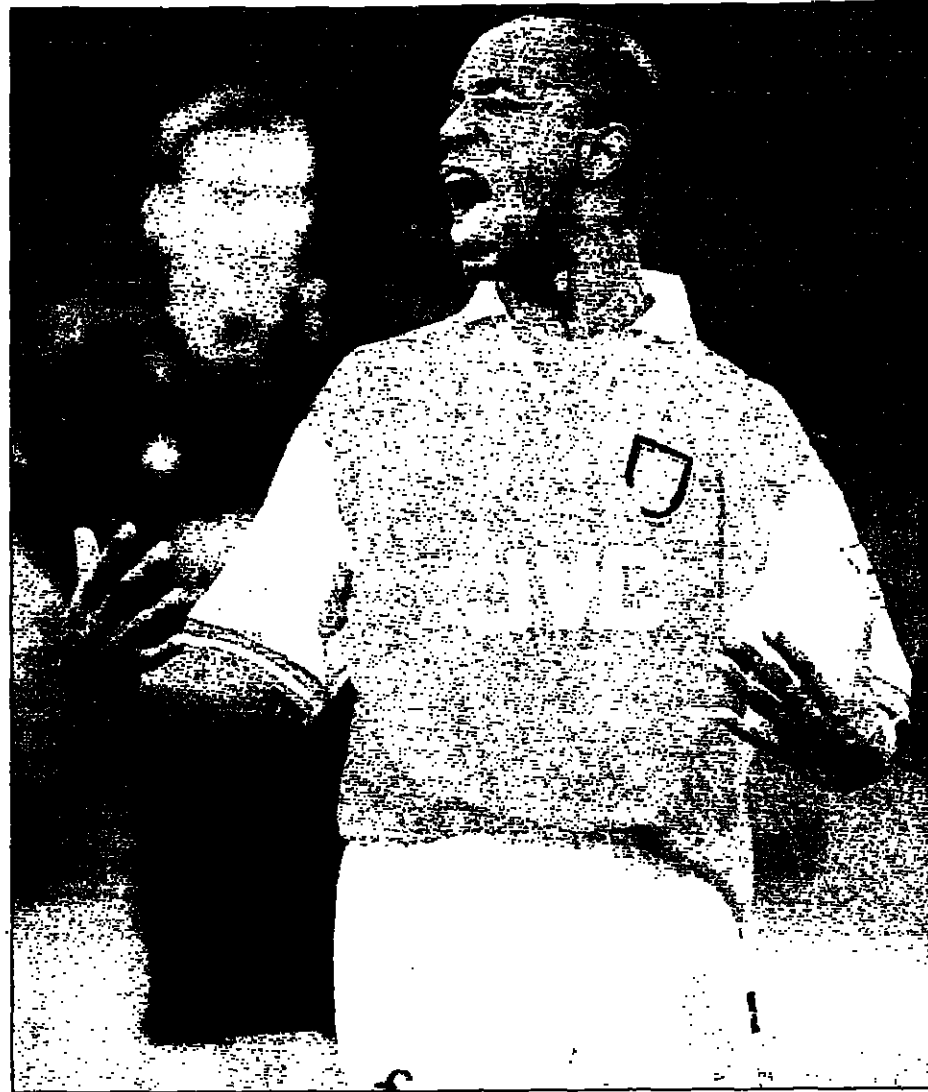
They have got the spirit. Before half-time they lost Bould for six minutes and Adams for ten, in each case after a clash of heads, and they refused to yield an inch. A lot depends on Bergkamp, who was quiet on Saturday, because Platt appears to be drawing on the interest of his career account. They could do with a passer of the ball in the middle, too, although that could be said of many teams. Merson, who scored their second goal, means a lot to them with those surges from deep positions. A couple of younger defenders could come in handy.

Come on, get off the fence. Would you pay money to watch them?

Not if Newcastle were playing Liverpool in the next meadow, no. Arsenal are never going to be a popular club, and they do not want to be. As Danny Blanchflower said,



Earle: impressive



Wright, still a fine finisher at club level, struts his stuff against Wimbledon

Cup glory may end Stranraer wilderness years

Glorious is supposed to come on afternoons when the sunlight is stroking the faces of the players, but the disadvantaged cannot afford to be fussy about the temperature. For the Challenge Cup final at Broadwood Stadium yesterday, the November wind scrubbed away skin and the soreness was relieved only for Stranraer, of the Bell's Scottish League second division, who defeated St Johnstone, from the first division, 1-0.

Most clubs huddle together in Scotland's central belt and to them Stranraer, in the southwest of the country, is a distant, and not at all exotic, outpost. Players asked to consider a move to Stair Park used to react as if deportation were being proposed. Matters have been improving since 1994, when Stranraer achieved promotion for the first time in their history, taking the old second division title.

In its isolation, the club does have a firm grip on an audience. Colin Calderwood, the Tottenham Hotspur and Scotland centre half, was born in the town and, while he was never to sign for Stranraer, he remembers, in boyhood, gawping in awe when he saw Alex McCutcheon, a player who lived in the area, walking down the street.

Even now, Calderwood is restless on a Saturday evening until he knows the Stranraer result. The news can be awaited with less trepidation these days. The club has a full-time manager, Campbell Money, and there is a sturdiness about the team that he fields. Of course, at this level, players do still trail quirky biographies behind them.

One of the Stranraer forwards, Tommy Sloan, preceded this match with his night shift as a baker. In a tournament competed for by the members of the three lower divisions, though, the romance of the final was really present only in its result. Money's side intended, principally, to be watchful and that

attitude was turned into stern conviction once they had moved in front.

The goal, in the 26th minute, had as its mainspring the shrewdness that recognises the inevitability of mistakes at this level. In a warmer climate, or a more sophisticated contest, Tony Gallagher's free kick from the left would have been wasteful, for it was whipped directly towards the goalkeeper.

Stranraer's defender, though, was eager to find out just how much adhesiveness there was in Alan Main's chilled fingers and damp gloves. The goalkeeper fumbled the ball and a harassed Danny Griffin booted an attempted clearance into his own net. St Johnstone, the better side, then spent the rest of the day discovering just how unimportant superiority can be.

The players of the Perth club are full-time and they are ranked among the favourites for promotion to the premier division. Their ineffectiveness on Saturday must remove some of the confidence with which their prospects have been regarded. Smooth technique was not enough to break the will of a Stranraer team happy to pack its own penalty area.

The goalkeeper, Barney Duffy, dealt with a succession of crosses from St Johnstone but was not forced to get himself mucky by diving on the soggy turf until the 88th minute, when he blocked at the feet of Roddy Grant.

The jubilation that flooded one of Broadwood's stands soon afterwards was vast, even if the attendance figure was a slim 3,522. Nearly ten times as many people had sampled the same euphoria on Saturday, when Celtic, with a goal from Paolo di Canio, overcame Aberdeen in Glasgow and clambered to the top of the premier division.

They lead on goal difference, by a margin of one, from a Rangers side who were woebegone after drawing 2-2 away to Raith Rovers, who are bottom of the table. The Ibrox club, even if no one will admit it, are believed to have offered Kenny Dalglish a job that would require him to identify suitable European players and bring them to Rangers.

Those supporters who made the long journey to Broadwood, however, will not be taking the slightest interest in anyone else's plans. Stranraer, founded in 1870, have a tradition of dawdling and, in 1981, they became the last of Britain's senior clubs to install floodlighting, but progress does continue all the same. Now, for the first time, there will be the gleam of a significant cup in the Stair Park boardroom.

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary



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FOOTBALL

Laws leaves Grimsby working on right lines

Grimsby Town 2
Sheffield United 4

By RICHARD HOBSON

"THERE is only one cure for the position we are in and that is hard work," Brian Laws wrote in the manager's column at the front of the match programme. The directors of Grimsby Town disagreed. Their answer to the problem was to dismiss Laws last Friday.

Tight deadlines, however, ensured that his thoughts remained untouched and, though it will represent little consolation, the events of yesterday proved the departed manager right.

As John Cockerill took charge for the first time, Grimsby displayed the pluck and endeavour that ought to ensure survival in the Nationwide League first division, even though they sit second from bottom. Twice they came back from behind, but lost to a brace of goals in the last ten minutes having dominated much of the second half.

Howard Kendall, the Sheffield United manager, acknowledged that his side were fortunate to take three points and move into sixth place, ahead of Tranmere Rovers on goals scored. "Perhaps this shows that things level out in football," Kendall mused.

"Earlier in the season we were unfortunate not to get certain results; this time we were definitely fortunate."

A swirling wind rolled in from the North Sea to handicap anybody tempted to measure a pass yesterday afternoon. Hit and hope was the order of proceedings and United ultimately triumphed because their defence made fewer errors under pressure.

Jason Pearcey, the Grimsby goalkeeper, was responsible for the first mistake of significance in the 28th minute. Dane Whitehouse temporarily obscured his line of vision and Pearcey was sufficiently dis-

tracted to fumble a speculative cross from Mitch Ward, resulting in a simple stroke-in for Don Hutchison.

Ten minutes later, Hutchison was dispossessed as he dwelt on the ball in midfield and Steve Livingstone shot beyond Alan Kelly, only for Whitehouse to restore the United lead close to half-time with a well-measured left-foot shot.

Livingstone claimed his second goal four minutes after the restart and Grimsby proceeded to produce their brightest football of the game. Neil Woods ran the midfield and a crowd of 5,935 clearly sensed that a third goal was just a decent effort away.

Grimsby tried but without reward. Kelly was off his line promptly to deny Clive Mendonca a clear run at goal and Michael Vonk charged down a shot from Woods as it headed towards the target. Indeed, Vonk and David Holdsworth needed to be resolute throughout a testing period for the visitors.

Then, with ten minutes remaining, Whitehouse broke along the left flank to cross for Peter Katchour, the Belarus international, to head past Pearcey at the far post. Two minutes later Chris Short, a substitute, strode forward with equal purpose and teed up Whitehouse to score for a second time.

Thus, an afternoon that began with an apology for the programme's contents ended with no necessity to apologise for the performance. Instead, the rousing bars of *Land of Hope and Glory* bellowed from the Tannoy system. Glory may be some way away, but there is still hope in abundance at Blundell Park.

GRIMSBY TOWN (4-4-3): A. Kelly — A. Fiddling (sub: K. Jobling, 46min), G. Rogers, R. Smith, A. Gallimore — G. Chivers (sub: D. White, 82), M. Woods, C. Shalunovskaya, K. Burd — S. Livingstone, C. Mendonca (sub: J. Forrester, 82).

SHEFFIELD UNITED (4-4-2): A. Kelly — M. Ward, M. Vonk, D. Holdsworth, R. Nelson — D. White (sub: G. Short, 79), D. Hutchison, M. Parnham, D. Whitehouse — G. Taylor (sub: A. Walker, 65), P. Katchour.

Referee: R. Poulton



Molby leads from the front as he bursts away from Cooper, centre, and Rennie to push Swansea City forward

Fear factor works wonders for Molby

David Powell sees a 1-0 win for Swansea City help to justify the resolute measures of one third division player-manager

TO describe how he had felt a week earlier, when defeat at Torquay United left Swansea City only one place off the bottom of the Nationwide League, Jan Molby said on Saturday that he had gone back to his apartment, closed his curtains, unplugged the phone and not gone out for 24 hours.

Since taking his first job in management with Swansea, Molby has sought guidance from many of his former Liverpool connections. Kenny Dalglish, Ronnie Moran, Ronnie Whelan and Steve McMahon, but this time, instead of picking up the phone, he chose his own advice. He bawled out his players. He even frightened them with the "C" word: Conference. It worked.

"I had a right pop at them after Torquay," Molby said. "We played as badly as I have seen us play in the eight months I have been here. My warning that we could find ourselves playing non-League football next season was not an idle one. But the

players have responded well to the criticism."

After the hot water, the hot air balloon ride. Two wins in a week have lifted Molby's chastised players from 23rd in the division to seventh. Timely points, given Brighton and Hove Albion's victory at Hartlepool United, indicating the folly of those who said that bottom place has been booked for the season.

While Brighton's plight has been discussed widely, Swansea's has gone barely noticed. Swansea were relegated from the old first division 14 seasons ago, having finished last but one ... above Brighton. Last season, they came down from the second division together, Swansea again one place above Brighton.

So when, last week, Swansea had only Brighton beneath them, the juxtaposition was familiar. Swansea, though, have fallen further. In 1981-82, when both clubs

achieved their highest League positions, Swansea led the League with 12 matches to go, only to finish sixth, while Brighton were thirteenth. Although not threatened with homelessness as Brighton are, the Swansea family is splitting up.

Doug Sharpe, the chairman, no longer has the drive,

who persuaded him to take the job. "He said we were ambitious and would go places," Molby said. "I thought that, if you get the backing and the club is ambitious, you have got a chance. When the club went up for sale it was a bombshell, but the wages are still being paid. To go into the new year we might have to sell one or two players." Buying is out of the question.

How different from when John Toshack, another Liverpool old boy, was manager. Swansea, under Toshack, reached their zenith. With money to spend, Toshack brought in several former Liverpool players: Tommy Smith, Ian Callaghan, Alan Waddle, Phil Boersma and Ray Kennedy. The financial excesses precipitated Swansea's downfall.

The defeat at Torquay was Molby's nadir. He did not expect the job to be easy. "But

I never thought it was going to get that low," he said. "I have no regrets. There are only 92 managers' jobs and we cannot all wait for the big one."

Northampton Town's run of three wins was ended when Steve Torpey hooked home a cross midway through the second half. After a grim end to last season and beginning to this one, this was Molby's most satisfying week.

"Ronnie Moran said to me that whatever level you are at, whatever player you work with, the game is always going to kick you in the teeth," Molby said. "He was obviously referring to what has been happening regarding the chairman." Torpey, with a winning goal in midweek and one more on Saturday, has spared Molby another visit to the dentist.

SWANSEA CITY (4-4-2): P. Freston — S. Jones, K. Walker, C. Edwards, M. Cole — D. Perrett, J. Molby (sub: K. O'Leary, 56min), L. Jenkins, J. Coates — L. Brown (sub: C. Hedges, 78), S. Torpey.

NORTHAMPTON TOWN (4-4-2): A. Woodman — I. Sampson, D. O'Shea (sub: R. Turner, 70), R. Warrington — J. Clifton, D. Harris, S. Parfitt, L. Maddison (sub: C. Lee, 74) — M. Rush, M. Cooper (sub: J. White, 85), N. Grayson.

Referee: S. Styles

Simpson curled a shot around a host of bodies, Durbin touched home Bradbury's downward header and Turner thundered in the fourth to leave the best away record in the league looking decidedly ragged. "We had been threatening to do that for a few weeks," Fenwick said. "Hopefully that will be a turning point."

On the way home, I advised my son to stop watching football now. He had seen the giant awake and twitch. It might be another 35 years before it happens again.

PORTSMOUTH (3-5-2): A. Farnham — A. Thompson, A. Whitworth (sub: R. Petrick, 80min), P. Rennie — J. Carter, A. McLoughlin, A. Arnold, F. Simpson, A. Turner (sub: S. Gope, 77) — L. Bradbury, J. Durbin.

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-4-2): P. Crockett — P. Holmes (sub: M. O'Connor, 45), P. Agnew, D. Burgess, S. Nicholson — J. Darby, P. Raven, R. Boatley (sub: J. L. Roberts, 84), P. Groves — A. Hunt (sub: E. Taylor, 45), P. Peachbottom.

Referee: M. Bailey

There is talk of Billy Bonds, the former West Ham manager now coaching at Queens Park Rangers, and two former Watford managers, Glenn Roeder and Steve Perryman, although it is hard to see any of them getting more out of the players than Cunningham, the first-team coach, did against a Torquay United side which had won five of its previous six matches.

They obviously fancied their chances against Orient.

There did not seem to be much danger when Hendon hit the ball hopefully downfield, but Barrow's attempt to channel it back to his goalkeeper was short of pace and Griffiths, starved of football at Peterborough and relishing his first League game for the best part of two years, poked it out of Wilton's grasp and slotted it into the net.

LEYTON ORIENT (4-3-3): L. Weaver — I. Hendon, L. Shaw, A. Armit, D. Naylor — D. Chapman, P. Garland, J. Charnley — C. Griffiths, M. Ling, S. Aydin.

TORQUAY UNITED (3-5-2): R. Wain — J. Gifford, A. Watson, I. Barrow — S. Winer, C. Light, 65min, S. Stamps — S. Jack, C. Nelson.

Referee: A. Butler

Walker sets a new benchmark as Vale march on

Port Vale 3
Birmingham City 0

By MARK HODKINSON

FOOTBALL folk are seldom the masters of the understatement, but Ian McPherson, a Port Vale director, takes some beating. McPherson's icon is the club's midfield stalwart Ray Walker and he does not go lightly on the eulogy.

"I would crawl from the edge of the world to pay tribute to the man," he gushed in the match programme for the game against Birmingham City on Saturday. He went further, dedicating Sinead O'Connor's *Nothing Compares 2 U* to the player who has spent nearly a decade at Vale Park.

On his 400th league appearance for Port Vale, Walker was at the heart of most of their creative play. He epitomises the style of play encouraged by John Rudge, the Port Vale manager. Rarely ostentatious, he played the ball to the feet, and his contribution was thoughtful and neat. Birmingham City, big-name manager and big-time ambitions, were woeful by comparison.

Tony Naylor opened the scoring, lifting the ball over Bennett. Both McCarthy and Guppy roamed the flanks and this led to a second, when Naylor poked home after Mills had headed onto the bar. Birmingham, now impelled to attack, pushed Bruce into midfield but his renowned call to arms brought scant response. The final goal perfectly showcased Vale's approach. Walker passed to Porter and his cross was volleyed home by Guppy. The move, simple in the extreme, was a template of pass and move football.

Walker felt Port Vale had turned in a performance worthy of his landmark appearance. "We got at them today. We just went from strength to strength. Once we had got the third goal, they were dead and buried," he said.

Trevor Francis, the Birmingham City manager, left the dug-out a few minutes before the end and raced up the players' tunnel. He was nowhere to be seen at the aftermath. "He just breezed through here," a helpful steward said, pointing towards the car-park.

When he eventually stops, Francis will have to address the pressing problem of moulding a team from a decent set of players. Birmingham are now without an away win in the league for nearly a year.

Rudge has already succeeded with this objective. "It was a very satisfying performance. We played well all through the side. Mills (Lee Mills) did well and Ray Walker was great despite taking a knock," Rudge said.

And Ray Walker? McPherson, quite rightly should have the final say there. "When the history of Port Vale is finally written, Walker will go down as our greatest ever player," he said.

PORT VALE (4-4-2): P. Musselwhite — A. H. G. Griffiths, D. Glover (sub: D. Stokes, 80min), A. Tansler — J. McCarthy, R. Walker (sub: M. Foyle, 84), A. Porter, S. Guppy — T. Naylor, L. Mills.

BIRMINGHAM CITY (3-5-2): Bernard — M. Jackson, G. Brown, S. Bisco, G. Aitken (sub: S. Cashe, 79), A. Legg (sub: M. Johnson, 76) — L. Holders, S. Home, J. Bowen — P. Deven, P. Fulford.

Referee: D. B. Allison

Sleeping giant's recurring dream flickers back into life



Venables missing

A TOUCHING little ritual was enacted moments before kick-off at Fratton Park. Nothing sentimental, just the passing on of an ancient family tradition. "There," I said to the seven-year-old boy sitting beside me, echoing the sort of speech my father made to me in roughly the same spot 35 years before. "I bequeath you the freedom of Fratton."

My son, on his first visit to a football ground, surveyed the pollarded Fratton End, with its pathetic rows of blue plastic seats, watched the desultory influx of spectators, cocked his ears to the silence ... and said he would rather support Arsenal. If it was all the same to me.

By half-time, other difficulties had arisen. How do you tell a small boy, on his spectating debut, that a 4-0 scoreline is not normal, not

normal for any side, let alone one as bumbling and good-natured as Portsmouth? This was his first 45 minutes of professional football, for goodness sake, and he had already witnessed a feat well beyond my own experience. It is bad for the soul to be spoilt so early. Only disappointment will follow. Portsmouth had once before scored four goals in a half, against Fulham, but had evened it up by conceding four in the second period, as if determined to distil the history of the club into one breathtaking afternoon.

Portsmouth have always been filled under the species of club known as "sleeping giants". They won the FA Cup just before the Second World War, the championship in consecutive seasons a decade later and have commanded remarkable loyalty in the

many lean years since. Supporters have derived consolation from the thought that one day the giant would wake and trample through the divisions. Impressive as they were in thrashing a dour West Bromwich Albion side, the hope has all but vanished.

The club is losing money at the reported rate of £6,000 a day and is up for sale, the stadium is down at heel, all plans for a new one have foundered and the early-season euphoria surrounding the arrival of Terry Venables has evaporated into the thin air of disillusion. As a favour to his old friend, Jim Gregory, and Gregory's son, Martin, the managing director, Venables

donned his tracksuit for the first two weeks of the season but has been rarely seen since. A friend of Portsmouth is how officials describe his non-executive role, a sort of fundraising footballing consultant, which is a bit like inviting Yehudi Menuhin into your orchestra and asking him to play the triangle. The fans had rather hoped Venables would be The Manager, which was a little harsh on Terry Fenwick, the real manager.

Last week, just to add to the confusion, Terry Brady, father of Birmingham City's Karen and only recently hailed as the club's saviour, resigned from the board and the transfer of David Hillier from Arsenal

degenerated into farce. One moment the money (£250,000) was there, the next it had vanished. Hillier finally signed on Friday. "He'll stiffen us up a bit," Fenwick said.

In the midst of it all, the team has blundered on, young, lively, largely untortured. Portsmouth's most valuable asset could lie in the stocky form of Lee Bradbury, a raw recruit from the Army who has the same eye for goal as that other military bargain, Guy Whittingham, who was bought for £400 and sold for £1 million. Bradbury, just 22, is heading the same way. "A hell of a find," Fenwick labelled him after his sixth goal in eight games had begun Portsmouth's unlikely spree.

Thereafter, in a reversal of their usual miracle, everything Portsmouth touched turned from stone to gold.

PORTSMOUTH (3-5-2): A. Farnham — A. Thompson, A. Whitworth (sub: R. Petrick, 80min), P. Rennie — J. Carter, A. McLoughlin, A. Arnold, F. Simpson, A. Turner (sub: S. Gope, 77) — L. Bradbury, J. Durbin.

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-4-2): P. Crockett — P. Holmes (sub: M. O'Connor, 45), P. Agnew, D. Burgess, S. Nicholson — J. Darby, P. Raven, R. Boatley (sub: J. L. Roberts, 84), P. Groves — A. Hunt (sub: E. Taylor, 45), P. Peachbottom.

Referee: M. Bailey

There is talk of Billy Bonds, the former West Ham manager now coaching at Queens Park Rangers, and two former Watford managers, Glenn Roeder and Steve Perryman, although it is hard to see any of them getting more out of the players than Cunningham, the first-team coach, did against a Torquay United side which had won five of its previous six matches.

They obviously fancied their chances against Orient.

There did not seem to be much danger when Hendon hit the ball hopefully downfield, but Barrow's attempt to channel it back to his goalkeeper was short of pace and Griffiths, starved of football at Peterborough and relishing his first League game for the best part of two years, poked it out of Wilton's grasp and slotted it into the net.

LEYTON ORIENT (4-3-3): L. Weaver — I. Hendon, L. Shaw, A. Armit, D. Naylor — D. Chapman, P. Garland, J. Charnley — C. Griffiths, M. Ling, S. Aydin.

TORQUAY UNITED (3-5-2): R. Wain — J. Gifford, A. Watson, I. Barrow — S. Winer, C. Light, 65min, S. Stamps — S. Jack, C. Nelson.

Referee: A. Butler

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Referee: A. Butler

Fry struggling with tight belt

Peterborough United 0
Blackpool 0

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

BARRY FRY — man or myth? Whatever the good folk of Peterborough to stomp up record season-ticker receipts when he took over as owner-manager in the summer, the legendary wheeler-dealer seems to be proving all too human at the moment. As he admitted, the early "never-a-dull-moment" promises have fizzled out, the game against Blackpool on Saturday was one dull moment after another.

Fry's answer, characteristi-

cally, may be a little flatter in the transfer market, although nothing on the scale of his time at Birmingham City, where he liked to operate on a tightly-knit squad of 50 or so players. There are stricter financial constraints at London Road. "The responsibility is huge," he said. "As a manager only, you don't realise it. Looking at budgets and meeting banks is a whole new ball game. But I will try to move a couple on and get a couple in. It is evident that what we have got is not producing the goods."

Neither side produced much in a soporific first half, although Blackpool came out strongly after the break, forcing a string of corners. Blackpool were so desperate to score that they also had Peterborough's best effort on goal. Banks was in no mood to be beaten, though, and certainly not by Linighan, one of his own defenders.

However, although Mellon looks too good for the Nationwide League second division, and Preece looks as if he thinks he is, Blackpool did not do enough to win. In fact, Preece's late, lazy foul gave Houghton a chance to steal it with a stringing free kick, but Banks was equal to it.

"It's the first time I've ever

been happy to draw 0-0," Fry said. "I couldn't see us scoring, and we haven't kept many clean sheets this season."

"We've been struggling with injuries, and the team is thrown together — a lot of young lads. But the youth players give me the greatest satisfaction here. I think the future is very bright."

He deserves credit for trying to take the supporters into that future with him. Peterborough's largest crowd of the season had been attracted by a selective pricing policy that Fry has introduced, along with meetings between public, players and management.

"The crowd was magnificent," he said. "I thank them for their support; they deserve better. I'm a fan at heart and I want it to be the fans' club. But we want to show something on the field, and we're not doing that at the moment."

It could be worse. At least he has not yet, as owner, felt the need to give himself, as manager, the dreaded vote of confidence.

PETERBOROUGH UNITED (3-5-2): J. Sullivan — J. Foran, M. Beetham, M. Budgey — R. Huxford, R. White, S. Houghton, D. Blington (sub: M. Dixon, 80min), A. Overy — A. Chanley (sub: Z. Rowe, 78), C. Cleverley.

BLACKPOOL (4-4-2): S. Banks — J. Lydiate, A. Bunter, G. Houghton, A. Barlow — J. Quinn, M. Mellon, G. Bradburn, L. Phipps (sub: A. Ellis, 79) — A. Preece, C. Walker.

Referee: T. West

Farnborough disrupt Harriers' momentum

Kidderminster Harriers 2
Farnborough Town 3

By WALTER GAMMIE

FARNBOROUGH Town brought to an end the 12-match unbeaten run that had taken Kidderminster Harriers to the top of the Vauxhall Conference with victory in a stirring, cut-and-thrust encounter at Aggborough on Saturday.

Two thumping headers by Pat Gavin from corners by Phil Wingfield and a simple finish by Chris Boothe, after a nifty interchange with Darren Robson, clinched a triumph that extended Farnborough's own sequence without defeat to 15 matches and thrust them firmly into an increasingly congested title race.

Farnborough had first to retrieve Kidderminster's 35th-minute opening goal, created by Lee Hughes, their exciting 21-year-old forward, who set up Doherty. His initial shot was blocked but he won a penalty pursuing the rebound, and then tucked the ball away himself.

Gavin, unmarked slap in front of goal, put Farn-

borough level at half-time before Robson and Boothe opened up the defence in the 53rd minute. Weir thwarted the initial incursion but Robson ran onto the byline to pull the ball back to Boothe's feet.

Hughes went in eager pursuit of the equaliser, turning to tee up a 30-yard shot that hit a post and then stranding Mackenzie near the corner flag only for Olney to turn his cross past an open goal.

Gavin headed a cross by Wingfield against the post immediately before Webb ducked to guide in Doherty's long ball from the right touchline. Kidderminster then had to go hunting again after Gavin outjumped the defence at the far post for his second goal in the 82nd minute.

Mackenzie stuck out his left arm to divert Weir's header from another cross by Doherty to ensure that Farnborough survived the final, frantic assault.

KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS (4-3-3): D. Bradburn — M. Bignall, C. Brindley, M. Weir, S. Fendley — K. Weir, M. Yarn, P. Weir, K. Casey, 82min, P. Webb — N. Doherty, D. Olney, L. Hughes.

FARNBOROUGH TOWN (4-4-2): S. Mackenzie — W. Stamp, K. Day, R. Williams, J. Underwood — S. Baker, D. Robson, D. Houghton, P. Wingfield (sub: R. Doherty, 68) — P. Gavin, C. Boothe.

Referee: G. Bosle

Cunningham savours his day

Leyton Orient 1
Torquay United 0

By PAT GIBSON

TOMMY CUNNINGHAM will never forget his first and, quite possibly, his last Saturday as a football manager. He had been asked to take temporary control of Leyton Orient after the dismissal of his great friend, Pat Holland, earlier in the week and responded by filling the players' with so much passion and commitment that they won for the first time in seven games.

"I'll never be in charge of a team again. I will cherish the memory of today," he said, his voice almost choking with emotion. "I'll still be here on Monday morning, whether I'll be here on Monday afternoon, I just don't know."

It will all depend on Barry Hearn, the urban Orient chairman, who has reduced no fewer than 130 applications for the manager's job to a shortlist of four.

The only candidate from within the club is Alvin Martin, the former West Ham United defender, who was not playing on Saturday because of back trouble, and it did not sound as though he was going

to get the nod either when Hearn said: "It has got to be either a big name or someone with experience as a manager, and that is the big problem I am weighing up at the moment."

There is talk of Billy Bonds, the former West Ham manager now coaching at Queens Park Rangers, and two former Watford managers, Glenn Roeder and Steve Perryman, although it is hard to see any of them getting more out of the players than Cunningham, the first-team coach, did against a Torquay United side which had won five of its previous six matches.

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TORQUAY UNITED (3-5-2): R. Wain — J. Gifford, A. Watson, I. Barrow — S. Winer, C. Light, 65min, S. Stamps — S. Jack, C. Nelson.

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LEYTON ORIENT (4-3-3): L. Weaver — I. Hendon, L. Shaw, A. Armit, D. Naylor — D. Chapman, P

CARLING PREMIERSHIP



ASTON VILLA (1) 2 NOTTAM FOREST (0) 0

Yates 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100

DERBY (0) 2 LEICESTER (0) 0

Ward 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101

LEEDS (1) 3 SUNDERLAND (0) 0

Forster 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100



BOLTON (1) 2 HULLERSFIELD (0) 0

Thompson 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100

PORT VALE (2) 3 BRIMMINGHAM (0) 0

Port Vale 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100

WOLVERHAMPTON (1) 3 BARNLEY (0) 0

Woolley 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100

BIRMINGHAM (1) 1 BURY (1) 1

Bury 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101

BRISTOL R. (0) 0 GILLINGHAM (0) 0

Gillingham 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101

WATFORD (1) 2 BRIGHTON (0) 0

Brighton 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101

WIDEBURN (1) 2 CHESTER (0) 0

Chester 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101

NEWPORT (1) 1 BARNET (0) 0

Barnet 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101

WALSLEY (1) 1 TORQUAY (0) 0

Torquay 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101

CHESHAM (1) 1 CHELSEA (0) 0

Chelsea 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 1 SOUTHAMPTON (0) 0

Southampton 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101

WEST HAM (1) 1 WEST HAM (0) 0

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RANGERS (1) 1 RANGERS (0) 0

Rangers 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101

ST. JOHNSTONE (1) 1 ST. JOHNSTONE (0) 0

St. Johnstone 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101

QUEEN OF SOUTH (1) 1 QUEEN OF SOUTH (0) 0

Queen of South 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101

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WIMBORNE (1) 2 ARSICAL (0) 0

Arsical 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101

BLACKBURN (1) 2 LIVERPOOL (0) 0

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NEWCASTLE (1) 1 MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 0

Middlesbrough 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101

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Liverpool 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101

BLACKBURN (1) 2 LIVERPOOL (0) 0

Liverpool 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101

BLACKBURN (1) 2 LIVERPOOL (0) 0

Liverpool 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101



Yorke scored against Forest

GOALSCORERS

Player	Goals
Wright (Arsenal)	10
F. Rovers (Middlesbrough)	7
W. Rovers (Middlesbrough)	6
M. L. Taylor (Southampton)	5
A. Shearer (Newcastle)	4
P. Fowler (Liverpool)	4
E. Chalko (Wimbledon)	4
G. Vialli (Chelsea)	4
C. Armstrong (Tottenham)	3
M. Wright (Blackburn)	3
D. Vitoria (Aston Villa)	3
P. Berger (Liverpool)	3

UNITED'S SLUMP

RECORDS are tumbling at Old Trafford, but not for the right reasons. Manchester United were the last team to surrender their unbeaten record in this season's FA Cup Premier League campaign, losing to Liverpool, the only other unbeaten side, 1-0, on October 12. Ironically, though, those were United's last three matches.

United have now lost three successive matches, conceding 13 goals in the process, their worst run in the Premiership. The last time they recorded a slump like that was in the 1991-92 season, when they surrendered the championship to Leeds United after losing 2-1 to Forest, 1-0 at West Ham and 2-0 at Liverpool, between April 20 and 28. The Chelsea fixture is also revealing - United have broken the five-game unbeaten home record in the past 22 years.

Problems are not just confined to league form. The reverse as the hands of Manchester United's unbeaten record in the FA Cup Premier League for more than 40 years, when they entered the second ever European Cup in 1955-56.

Potential for more than 40 years, when they entered the second ever European Cup in 1955-56.

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

HOME	P	W	D	L	F	A	Goal
1 Newcastle	12	5	0	1	17	7	27
2 Arsenal	12	4	2	0	14	4	25
3 Wimbledon	12	4	1	1	14	8	23
4 Liverpool	11	4	1	0	11	3	23
5 Chelsea	12	3	2	1	10	7	22
6 Man Utd	12	3	2	1	12	7	22
7 Villa	12	4	2	0	9	2	22
8 Tottenham	12	2	2	2	5	3	17
9 Sheff Wed	12	2	3	1	6	2	17
10 Everton	10	3	0	2	7	4	15
11 Derby	12	2	2	2	7	7	14
12 West Ham	12	3	1	2	7	1	14
13 Leicester	12	3	0	3	8	1	14
14 Southampton	12	3	2	1	15	6	13
15 Middlesbrough	12	2	2	2	11	9	13
16 Sunderland	12	2	3	1	5	4	13
17 Leeds	12	3	0	3	8	7	13
18 Nottm F	12	3	0	3	8	1	13
19 Coventry	11	3	2	0	6	2	18
20 Blackburn	12	1	1	4	6	8	7

SECOND DIVISION

1 Millwall	17	7	1	1	16	8	3	3	21	13	1	4	32
2 Brentford	17	4	4	0	17	11	1	1	3	11	8	8	34
3 Crewe	17	8	0	2	18	8	1	1	4	8	9	31	22
4 Bury	17	5	3	0	13	4	1	1	4	5	8	31	22
5 Watford	17	3	4	2	8	8	5	2	1	12	7	7	30
6 Wrexham	16	5	3	0	15	9	2	5	1	9	8	28	23
7 Bristol City	17	8	0	2	21	5	2	4	3	11	4	28	23
8 Luton	16	6	0	2	23	3	5	4	2	11	13	28	23
9 Chesham	17	4	3	2	9	5	3	3	1	10	10	28	23
10 Stockport	17	4	3	2	9	7	3	2	2	12	13	26	24
11 Bristol R	17	5	3	1	11	5	1	4	3	5	8	25	11
12 Burnley	17	6	0	2	17	7	1	4	3	5	8	24	10
13 York	17	4	2	3	13	11	2	2	2	4	12	22	22
14 Plymouth	17	2	2	4	11	3	2	2	2	4	10	22	22
15 Shrewsbury	17	2	2	4	5	11	3	3	3	13	12	20	1
16 Gillingham	17	4	2	2	12	9	1	2	6	5	10	19	1
17 Blackpool	17	2	4	1	9	7	2	3	3	5	7	11	19
18 Peterborough	17	3	1	1	10	7	2	2	4	7	12	17	12
19 Notts Co	17	2	3	4	10	2	2	2	4	7	12	17	12
20 Bournemouth	17	2	1	6	11	3	3	1	4	8	10	17	12
21 Preston	17	4	3	2	11	9	0	1	7	4	11	16	13
22 Walsai	17	3	3	2	9	7	1	1	7	7	6	16	16
23 Hotherham	17	3	2	3	8	7	0	2	6	7	8	19	13
24 Wycombe	17	2	4	6	8	7	0	2	6	8	21	11	1

NETBALL: ENGLAND CALL GIVEN PROMINENCE BY RELATIVE SUCCESS

Neville branches out in sporting family tree

As sporting families' success stories go, they do not come much more complete than the Nevilles. Gary and Philip have already earned fame and fortune playing football for Manchester United and England. On Saturday, at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, Tracey, 19, made her England netball debut against Jamaica.

Mr and Mrs Neville face a unique parental dilemma: how to shout for their three children at once. The contrast between their chosen sports could hardly be greater. One is high-profile, lucrative and glamorous. It is Tracey's lot to seek recognition in a women's minority amateur sport. Often, unless the participants look glamorous, column inches, interest and sponsorship are scarce.

Saturday was not quite the story-book day the Nevilles might have hoped for. Manchester United lost at home and England could not prevent the Jamaicans from running up a winning 11-goal margin in a fast-passing, physical game. Indeed, England were never ahead in the contest and will need all Tracey's sharp-shooting skills in Manchester on Wednesday and at Wembley Arena on Saturday to claw back the series.

For Tracey, a bubbly Mancunian, selection for the senior

Sarah Potter on how a teenager has followed in her footballing brothers' footsteps to international recognition

squad is the realisation of an ambition held since junior school, when she began watching her mother play for club and county. "I knew when I was 12 that I wanted netball to be my life," Tracey said emphatically. "But I can't believe it has actually come true. It's brilliant."

Single-minded determination seems to be a Neville trait. According to Tracey, Gary told an understandably sceptical careers officer at school that he was going to play for Manchester United and nothing less would do. Philip's heart was equally set. Doubt has no place and sport takes top priority.

"If I could give up university to be paid to play netball full-time I would do it like a shot," the new England goal attack said, "but it isn't like that and I have to look elsewhere. Still, netball comes first."

Looking elsewhere means making a career. Tracey is in her second year at Bristol University, training to be a primary school teacher. She did not tell anyone about her famous brothers until she was several weeks into her course.

"I knew by then who my

friends were. A lot of them have never supported football before, now they are worse than me. We go to the pub and watch all the matches and I travel to as many games as I can."

Gary and Philip have bought Tracey a car to ease her busy schedule and she travels home whenever possible. "We just like being together. The family are living in Gary's house at the moment. Although Phil has got a house, he doesn't want to move out. We don't want to leave each other really."

As Philip's twin, Tracey admitted to a special bond with the young defender. "We were always in the same classes at school and we always played sport together. Gary can't have a go at Phil without me intervening." On Wednesday, Gary will be with the England squad for the World Cup qualifying match in Georgia but Philip, just coming back from injury, has not made the squad this time and will now be able to watch his sister play at the Nynex Arena in Manchester.

The home-town fixture will

be special for Tracey and her family. "I know all my friends have got tickets and word would have gone round the local netball clubs. That's really nerve-racking. She giggled before admitting that she does not like thinking about that kind of pressure. "I was at the Man United game last week and there were 55,000 watching and I thought, I might be playing in front of 2,000 people. I'll be wetting myself!"

A typical crowd for such an occasion will be made up mostly of school parties and netball clubs. Few men go along to watch; boys are not taught netball at school and there is something in its non-contact rules that makes men less inclined to take it seriously.

"That's a pity," Tracey said. "I think if netball was shown to men, even if at first they were only watching us for our knickers, they would get into the game, have their pin-ups like we do with the football and enjoy it."

The BBC screened the entire international on Saturday. It may have taken the extraordinary connection of two famous brothers to help to get the media ball rolling but, in Tracey Neville, netball might just have found the peg to hang its development on. A new star, albeit with a familiar name, has been born. That is good news for women's sport.



Neville's skills as a goal attack were unable to keep England from defeat by Jamaica

EQUESTRIANISM

Short cut produces delight for Holland

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN AMSTERDAM

WOUT-JAN van der Schans, from Holland, gave his vociferous home crowd a victory to savour yesterday when he and Leroy Brown won the Volvo World Cup qualifier after relegating Ludger Beerbaum, the former Olympic champion from Germany, to second place by one-hundredth of a second.

Van der Schans, who last won a World Cup qualifier seven years ago in Helsinki, was the only rider in the 12-horse jump-off to negotiate a short cut between fence two and the double which followed successfully. Beerbaum, riding Dirk Hafemeister's horse Priamos in only their third show together, went the longer route but compensated with a typically fluent round.

Roger-Yves Bost, of France, underlined the strength of his new partnership with Airborne Montecillo by taking third place.

For the three Britons competing — John and Michael Whitaker and Geoff Billington — it was a sorry tale. Although all three were riding their top horses, none reached the jump-off. John Whitaker had the best round, and his four faults on Wellham at the middle part of the combination in an otherwise faultless round appeared unlucky.

Billington, who collected eight faults on his Otto, reckoned that he had "cooked his goose" the previous night when he had gone flat out in the jump-off for the Ing Bank Grand Prix, in which he had finished fourth. "He thought he was racing again today when the bell went and got careless," Billington said.

Michael Whitaker, who also had eight faults on Two Step, laid the blame not on any recurrence of the back injury that afflicted the horse in Atlanta, but on exhaustion. "I think he's tired mentally after Atlanta and Monterrey," he said. "I'm going to give him a long rest now — maybe until next year."

Isabel Werth, of Germany, the reigning world, European and Olympic champion, ended Anky van Grunsven's run of success in the Volvo World Cup Dressage qualifiers when she won on the inexperienced Welcome — a nine-year-old stallion she ranks fourth among her string of grand prix horses.

Richard Davison, a Briton, finished ninth on Askari and now goes to Brussels this weekend in an attempt to secure his first ticket to the final at 's-Hertogenbosch, in Holland, next April.

Results, page 40

FISHING: RECORD CATCHES PROVE THAT SUCCESS CAN OWE AS MUCH TO GOOD LUCK AS TO THE PRECISION PLANNING OF THE ANGLER

Fickle fortune throws up tails of the unexpected

By BRIAN CLARKE

THE capture a week ago of the biggest brown trout ever taken by an angler in England, hard on the fins of a record catfish a couple of weeks before, shows what a fickle and seductive mistress fishing can be.

The brown trout weighed 19lb 12oz and was taken by Graham Nichol, of Watford, while ledgering on the bed of Grafton Water, in Cambridgeshire, for pike. The 61lb catfish was taken by Steve Reynard, of Southampton. The monster grabbed Reynard's hook when he cast into Withy Pool, in Bedfordshire only to test the depth of swim.

Such incidents are not rare. It is only the fact that records might have been involved that brought the two fish to the fore. Big fish being taken out of context — by small boys fishing with dads, by tyros fishing with experts, by specialists in one species catching a corker of another — are the warp and weft of angling.

There is no seasoned angler

who has not experienced the like. The biggest freshwater fish I have knowingly hooked, a pike, was taken when I was still in short trousers and spinning the Tees for chub. Shortly after we met and before we were married, my wife hooked — but mercifully lost — the fish I had been trying to get for hours, with the first attempt at casting with a rod of any kind.

When Reynard caught his catfish, fortune was, indeed, smiling because at the time, he was not fishing at all. Perhaps with an eye to a longer relationship, Reynard went to extremes in return. He was so thrilled with his good fortune and so concerned for the fish's welfare, that he went neck-deep into the water with the monster in his arms, so that he could nurse it back to strength before letting it go.

Fate is not always thus, though, as Nichol will confirm. He caught his great brown trout while pike fishing, but the fish was taken after the trout season had

ended and so — magnificent specimen though it was — could never have been accepted for a claim.

Just occasionally, fortune plays things straight. The two most famous fish ever caught in Britain are examples.

On October 7, 1922, Georgina Ballantine was fishing the Glendevine estate water on the Tay, with her

father. By early evening she had already taken three good salmon. At 5pm, their boatman finished work for the day. On any normal day she would have packed in then — her father worked for the estate and had constant access to the water — but that day happened to be the Saturday of the weekend that the clocks were put back. On the spur of the

moment, Miss Ballantine said she wanted to take the most of the last long day. Her father rowed. She trotted from the back of the boat.

At 6.15pm, a spinning deadbait was taken. At 8.20pm, a cock salmon was landed. It weighed 64lb.

Expert in her own right though she was, Georgina Ballantine was fishing with ANGLIAN WATER



Reynard, left, was simply testing for depth when he hooked the 61lb catfish in Withy Pool; Nichol was surprised to take a 19lb brown trout while ledgering for pike

the man who ran the fishery for the estate. He knew every pebble and lie on the river bed. He steered his daughter deliberately to a specific spot which on that day at that time, experience told him to try. Briefly, the biggest salmon in Christendom, on its way to the spawning redds, had stopped there to rest.

So, while there is no doubt that the record salmon was landed as a result of great skills, lots of small, balancing elements of chance had to come together to make the fish possible.

Many record fish have fallen as a result of far greater chance of events. The catfish is only the most recent example. One that owed little to luck, however, is the second most famous catch of all time. It was hooked by Richard Walker on September 13, 1952. The carp weighed 44lb, a weight exceeded several times since but that in those days was almost beyond comprehension.

Once Walker had deter-

mined to catch a great carp, he planned its downfall as systematically as he planned everything else. He found a lake that contained great carp, studied the behaviour of the fish in that lake and then laid siege to them with tackle he had designed and built for that one job alone.

Between the two extremes, the great gamut of angling experience lies. As knowledge increases, dedication and obsession become every more intense. Flyfishers study insects down to the last costal projection, coarse anglers invent rigs that would dazzle Leonardo da Vinci. Every fishing action, every refinement of technique, is these days designed to frustrate fortune and tighten the odds.

But just as often as Dame Fortune will flirt and seduce, she will deliver that whopper from unlikely water that will end the day with a bang.

□ Brian Clarke's column appears on the first Monday of each month.

Results, page 40

Midland Interest Rates for Business Customers

New business rates effective from 4 November 1996

	Gross %	Gross CAR %
Money Master		
Up to £5,000	2.58	2.60
£5,000+	2.78	2.80
£25,000+	3.07	3.10
£100,000+	3.27	3.30
£250,000+	3.51	3.55
Premium Business Account		
£5,000+	3.89	3.95
£25,000+	4.41	4.50
£100,000+	4.65	4.75
£250,000+	4.89	5.00
Clients Premium Deposit Account		
£25,000+	3.72	3.75
£100,000+	4.16	4.20
Education Account		
Up to £25,000	3.64	3.70
£25,000+	4.13	4.20
Treasurer Account		
Up to £2,000	1.00	1.00
£2,000+	1.25	1.25
£10,000+	3.21	3.25

Gross: The rate before the deduction of tax. CAR: Compound Annual Rate, or the true Gross return taking into account the frequency of interest payments. All rates quoted are per annum. With effect from the 31st October 1996 Base Rate has been increased by 0.25% to 6.00% p.a.



Midland Bank plc, 27-32 Poultry, London EC2P 2BQ.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

22:00 Arsenal v Manchester United

FA Cup First Round: Everton v Coventry (8.0)

Vauxhall Conference: Kidderminster v Hayes (7.45)

FA Cup: Fourth qualifying round replay: Monmouth v Llanelli (7.45)

FA UMBRO Trophy: First qualifying round, second replay: Thame United v Henley

ISIS League: Guernsey Insurance Cup: Second round: Bournemouth v St Albans

Casualty v Brantford (7.45) v Sutton United

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Casualty v

Manhattan represents height of ambition for marathon runners

Where American dreams are reality



Oliver Holt launches a series on a city in which the passion for sport has been reawakened

They streamed off the Verrazano Bridge at the start in their thousands and thousands. The skyscrapers of Manhattan glinted their greetings from across the East River, the dismal brown mass of housing projects beckoned them towards the Bronx, far away to the north. At the foot of the bridge, the runners took the first exit to Brooklyn and launched themselves into another of New York's sporting glory days.

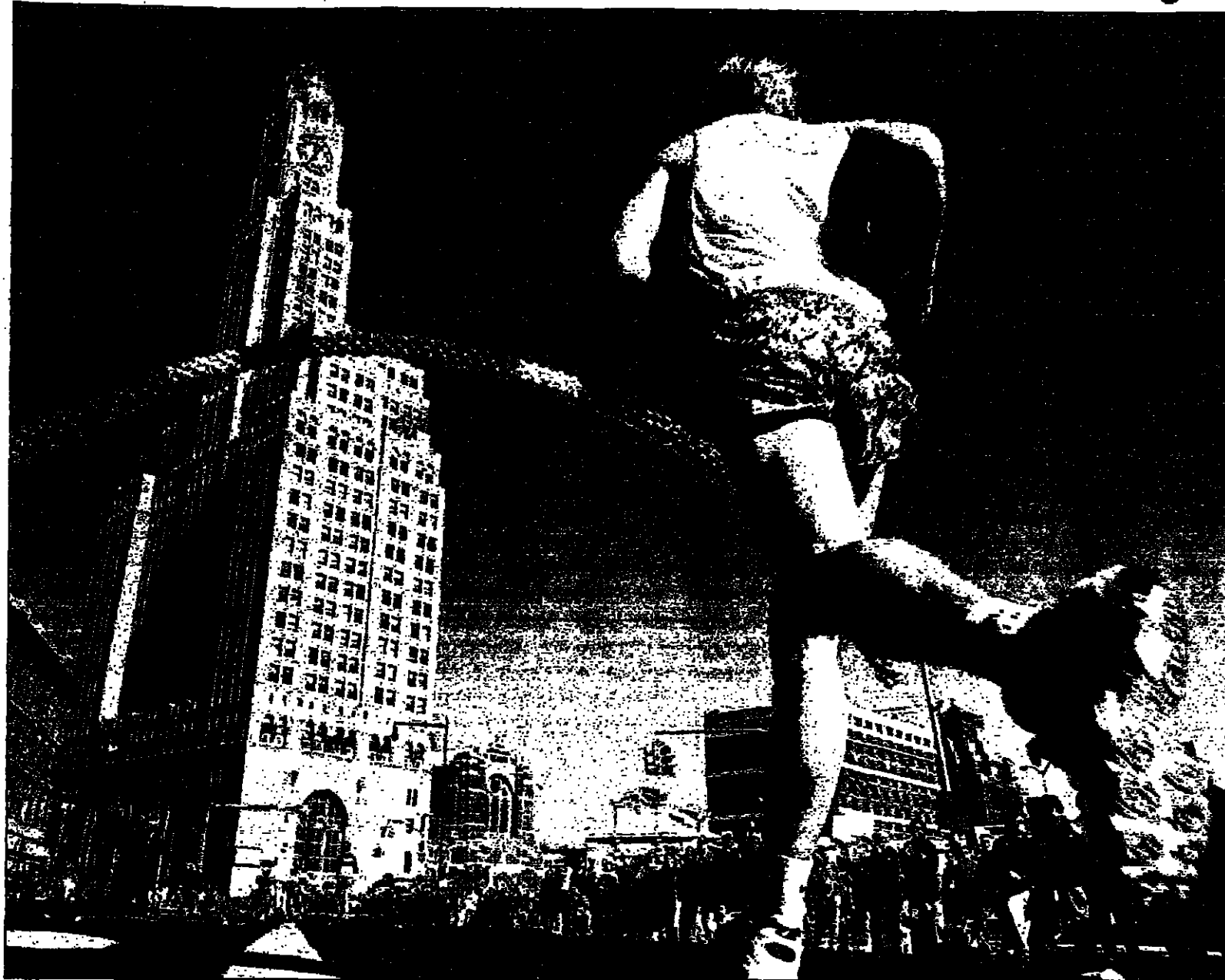
The giddy populace is still rejoicing at the surprise success of the New York Yankees in the baseball world series ten days ago. A celebratory ticker-tape parade followed hot on its heels and Yankees merchandise is still the hottest seller in the souvenir shops on Fifth Avenue.

The image of Wayne Gretzky, the best ice hockey player that the game has seen, stares down on Broadway amid the flashing neon, a reminder that he has joined the New York Rangers for the autumn of his career, a phase that so far is showing every sign of being as brilliant as the fall colours that still decorate the trees of New England.

Shaquille O'Neal is coming to town next week, too, with his new team, the Los Angeles Lakers, to pit his skills against New York's favourite basketballing son, Patrick Ewing. This year, the Knicks have splashed so much money on star players to support their talisman that their supporters believe that they have a genuine chance of dethroning Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls.

Even the city's American football teams, the much-maligned Giants and Jets, have been showing signs of life after dreadful starts to their respective seasons. Into this heady mix, nearly 30,000 marathon runners surged yesterday for the 26th enactment of the race that winds through each of the city's five boroughs.

It has all engendered a triumphalist mood among New Yorkers and their media, and widespread claims that the city has reclaimed its title



The marathon in New York yesterday gave the city another glory day, enhancing its triumphalist mood. Photograph: Marc Aspland

of the sporting capital of America that has gradually been torn away from it by the westward drain of franchises. Nothing could be designed to reinforce this feeling more than yesterday's marathon.

The route it follows, you see, is like a race through the American psyche, through the dream and the nightmare and back to the dream. And in the best traditions of schmaltz, it finishes with a smile on its face surrounded by opulence, with unhappiness and uncertainty falling away out of sight.

It starts where so many New York stories begin, in Brooklyn and Queens, boroughs where immigrants have traditionally settled in their pursuit of success in the New World. It is a place of striving and working that the runners pass through at the beginning of their own journey.

It is a place where, just as in the marathon, the weak and the vulnerable fall by the wayside. A ten-year-old Polish boy was killed in crossfire near the wide expanse of Fourth Avenue where the runners caught up with the lead-

'The giddy populace is still rejoicing at the surprise success of the Yankees in the baseball World Series'

ing wheelchair athletes yesterday and littered the road with empty cups from drinking stations. He was shot by a youth seeking revenge on somebody who had thrown an egg at him for a Halloween prank.

From Queens, as the field widened out and the runners left the reggae bands of Bedford-Stuyvesant and the Jewish neighbourhood of Crown Heights behind, the runners were given a taste of the high life, a brief excursion into Manhattan via the Queensboro Bridge, a brief sight of the promised land.

The elation is short-lived, though. The race progresses past the rare air of Upper West Side after 18 miles and treads through Spanish Harlem, where gangs with comic book names like The Fantastic Partners boast of their bloody rule by painting murals. At one street corner yesterday, the

runners passed within a few feet of 20 or 30 champagne bottles arranged at the foot of a wall in a semi-circle as a bizarre tribute to a murdered friend.

And just when the runners may be hitting the wall, the marathon chooses to take them through the Bronx, the borough of Fort Apache, where another cop killer is on the loose. Few of the New Yorkers who made up 48 per cent of yesterday's field ever venture into this area. They got a fleeting glimpse yesterday, just two miles, before they headed back to Manhattan.

The end of the journey, of course, arrived in a neighbourhood that represents the height of most Americans' aspirations. The finishing line in Central Park is in the shadow of Donald Trump's newest and most

lavish tower block, a place overlooked by apartments belonging to film stars such as Woody Allen, Al Pacino and Barbra Streisand. Famous joggers like John F Kennedy Jr and Madonna met their partners here.

At the end of it all, an Italian, Giacomo Leone, surprised everyone by outlasting the posse of African athletes that had been expected to monopolise the men's race. He finished in 2hr 9min 54sec, 15 seconds ahead of Turbo Tumme, from Ethiopia, and two minutes ahead of Cosmas Ndeti, the Kenyan pre-race favourite, who was sixth.

The women's race was a much closer affair, ending in a tight three-way battle that reached a climax in Central Park. It was won by a Romanian, Anuta Caruna, in a time of 2hr 28min 18sec. She edged out Franca Fiacconi,

from Italy, by 24 seconds. Joyce Chepchumba, from Kenya, finished a falling third.

There were a few, of course, who did not see the race as the panacea it is presented as. The yellow cab drivers were unhappy because of the extra traffic the runners and their families brought to Manhattan, the police were overworked trying to keep the route free.

The biggest loser, though, apart from the usual unfortunates who staggered across the city's streets in crazy patterns of exhaustion, was Adolfo Zapata, a Queens resident, who was charged with fraud two days before the race. He had allegedly been claiming sick pay because of an injured foot for 18 months before he was caught on film finishing last year's race in 12 minutes under three hours.

TOMORROW
Why the Giants are putting their faith in youth to restore their NFL fortunes

Lone sailors set off into teeth of gale

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

THE Vendée Globe single-handed non-stop round-the-world race, which can truly claim to be the "world's toughest yacht race", got under way yesterday with two Britons, Pete Goss, on *Aqua Quorum*, and Tony Bullimore, on *Global Challenger*, among the 16 starters at Les Sables d'Olonne, in France, for the third running of the event.

The race takes the field eastabout around Antarctica, by way of the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn, in a voyage of some 22,000 miles. The record is 109 days, set by the Frenchman, Titouan Lamazou, on *Ecureuil d'Aquitaine* in 1990.

The Vendée Globe is a downwind safari, open to boats of between 50 and 60ft, which are designed like huge surfboards with massive sail areas. In the past, the attrition rate has been high. Only half the 14 yachts made it to the finish in 1992 and one skipper, Nigel Burgess, drowned within a week of the start.

Yesterday, more than 3,500 spectator craft plus an estimated 300,000 people on shore, watched the fleet head off into a southwesterly gale sweeping through the Bay of Biscay. By the last turning mark, the field was being led by Yves Parlier, on his innovative Finot-designed 60ft sloop, *Aquitaine Innovations*, which was dismantled in this year's single-handed transatlantic race. Parlier had a lead of about a mile on his rivals after just 50 minutes of racing.

Behind him were two more Frenchmen, Bertrand de Broc, on *Votre Nom Autour Du Monde*, and Hervé Laurent, on *Groupe LG1*. Then came the Belgian, Patrick de Radigue, on *Full Immersion*, before a group of three yachts led by the Canadian, Gerry Roufs, on *Groupe LG2*, followed by Hungary's Nandor Fa, on *Budapest*, and the leading French yachtswoman, Isabelle Autissier, on her brand new Finot 60, *PRB*, complete with swing keel and a multimillion-pound budget.

Among the more cautious starters was one of the favourites, Christophe Auguin, on the modified Finot-60, *Geodis*, which now also sports a canting keel. Goss was further back but, despite being the only 50-footer in the race, was not last. Speaking from the Adrian Thompson-designed *Aqua Quorum* within 30 minutes of the start, his enthusiasm came over loud and clear. "This is the big one, this is a once in a lifetime - this is it," said the former Royal Marine and British Steel Challenge skipper who has sold his house and gone into debt to the tune of more than £80,000 to take part.

"I don't feel the underdog," he said. "I've got a little boat with a big heart." He is aiming for a top-five finish and wants to be inside Lamazou's record. His main fears concern getting through The Doldrums and then taking on the challenge of the Southern Ocean on his own for the first time. "It's a race against yourself as much as anything," he said. "I have knowledge of every aspect of it apart from being on my own for that length of time. We'll just have to see."

Realistically, Goss knows that he cannot win unless all the top 60-footers meet with misfortune. However, he can beat some of them, as he showed in the single-handed transatlantic when, despite a knockdown, he finished a



Goss: smallest boat



Autissier: well financed

strong second in class and ahead of several of the bigger boats.

Since then he has modified *Aqua Quorum*, repainting her hulls adding some new sails and altering the spartan accommodation to make it safer and more comfortable. However, with the smallest budget in the fleet, of £450,000, he has been unable to do everything he wanted.

Bullimore, who has 26 Atlantic crossings to his name plus victory in the 1985 round Britain and round Europe races, has embarked on his first round-the-world attempt on the 60ft *Global Challenger*, despite having failed to find a sponsor, a hoped-for deal falling through at the last minute.

HOCKEY

Rare bond inspires Olton

By a Special Correspondent

OLTON pride themselves on the family spirit within the women's National League club, so it was almost too good to be true to hear their teenage striker, Kerry Moore, yelling "mum" when she wanted the left defender to release a long ball down the line. Lyn Moore duty obliged and the talented former England under-18 player set off on another of her weaving runs.

The Birmingham team are justifiably proud of fielding the mother-and-daughter combination in their first divi-

sion side and they are beginning to feel even better after beating Chelmsford 4-1 to extend their winning start to five matches.

Their ambitious youth policy and the sport's clean, family image has attracted the region's promising teenagers. And the former England international, Gavin Featherstone, has used his impressive coaching skills to inspire the team that has an average age of 24 and nine players in England junior squads.

On Saturday the Moores

played alongside the Wright sisters, Lucilla, 16, and Sally, 18, both schoolgirl internationals and both on hockey bursaries at Bromsgrove School. Barbara Hambly, the former England and Great Britain captain, completely dominated the midfield and Lucilla Wright enhanced her reputation as a sharpshooter by cracking in two penalty-corner goals.

Lyn Moore, who is 40 next month, said she gave Kerry her first stick when she was four years old. "It's marvelous to play alongside her and good for my game because it keeps me going," Kerry said. "We run in the park together, train at the gym and on the local pitch and she's the first one to nag me if I don't."

Featherstone was typically upbeat about the future. "We want to be European champions and if that means overtaking Sutton Coldfield as Birmingham's premier club, then so be it. I also believe four of our players could represent Great Britain at the 2000 Olympics."

While the veteran Hambly accepted her player-of-the-match award, her husband, Richard, gently cradled Jo Reddy's six-week-old son. Reddy has been a stalwart over the years and hopes to be back in action after Christmas. At this rate Olton could almost have secured their place in the Premiership next season.

Across the city, Sutton Coldfield were contemplating a heavy 6-1 defeat at the hands of the unbeaten leaders, Slough, and Doncaster were celebrating their first league win over Highdown after crushing the champions 8-2.

Stowe festival proves long day for lacrosse hopefuls

By John Goodbody

LACROSSE is certainly not a game for faint hearts. In the neo-classical splendour of Stowe School on Saturday, the rain teemed down and the day must have seemed endless for some of the 78 players.

During the morning, the Midlands County Junior Tournament was held with every team having a minimum of 80 minutes of intense activity. Then, after lunch, the outstanding girls were in action again in trials to pick the 20-strong regional representative squad.

Many of the girls had endured a total of two hours' exercise with the pressure in the morning of performing well for their team and in the afternoon for themselves.

In games such as football or hockey, this would be severe enough. However, every time one sees lacrosse, one is struck by the amount of effort involved. The long, sustained surging runs up and down and across the field, behind the goals, and even round the spectators, since boundary lines are arbitrary, mean it is a sport with a premium on speed and endurance.

With the girls understandably tiring in the afternoon and therefore more prone to making mistakes, choosing the best players was awkward for the selectors.

Alison Hunt, of St Helen & St Katharine School in Oxfordshire, who chaired the selectors, said: "It was exceedingly difficult this year as it was such a strong tournament. We can look at the players' stickwork skills. The on-the-ball stuff is more obvious but we also watch a girl's off-the-ball movement.

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

rebounding the ball from the turf so that the goalkeeper found it more difficult to intercept. She said: "When you do that, the goalkeeper does not know where the ball is going to be."

As for her future, Browne added: "First, I want to get into the Midlands squad and then I would love to go into the England party." She completed the first of these two ambitions during the afternoon.

Another girl to make the Midlands party was Sarah Laver, 17, from Moreton Hall, who with her sustained attacks was impressive in the Shropshire team despite their heavy defeat. She said: "That was our worst game. We could have done much better but we were so tired and not on the ball. The Wycombe girls are so aggressive and know what is going on."

Worcestershire, made up of girls from Malvern Girls College and Alice Otley School, took some time to blend their style.

One of their leading players, Juliet Tetley, 16, who is also hoping to represent the national under-17 cricket team next year, had an England lacrosse trial last year. "I was a bit in awe of everything last year. I was quite young. But it's definitely a target for this winter."

In their final game, Buckinghamshire overwhelmed Shropshire 5-0 with Veronica Browne, 16, from Wycombe Abbey, scoring two of the seven goals she netted during the morning. Dodging and twisting round defenders, she was elusive near goal and shot with rare accuracy, sometimes

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— 29 —

How Britain's best see the academy



Roger Black
Athlete

THERE are two reasons why we need an academy. First, it should be for the elite. The facilities and support services should be so good that a talented youngster wants to train there. It should also provide a focus for British sport, raising the awareness of sport in this country, and be a place that people want to visit. There should be regional academies, but the central academy is vital. It is where the best doctors and research scientists should be based. It is where national squads would automatically go for sessions. For instance, our 400 metres group is about to meet in Birmingham. If there were an academy, we would automatically meet there. For promising youngsters, it would be ideal. For athletes, we must have proper indoor facilities. This is a problem for young high jumpers, hurdlers and sprinters.

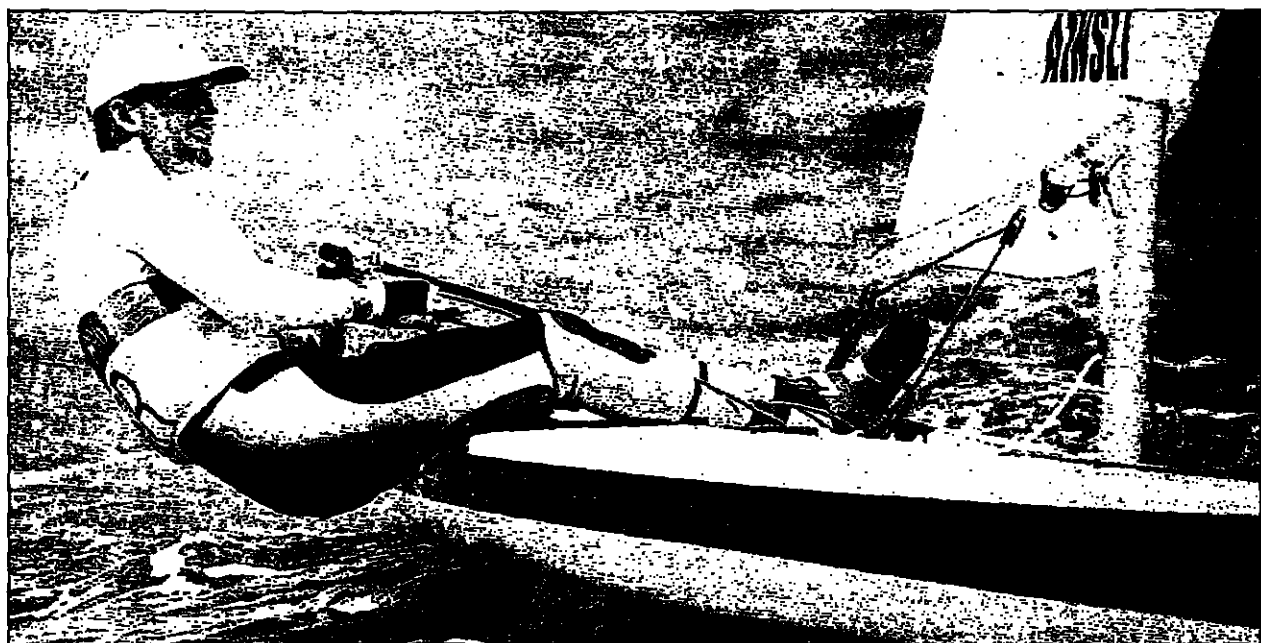


Chris Boardman
Cyclist

I AM sceptical about the need for any sort of central academy. I need to be convinced that it would be effective in providing facilities for those who really want to succeed, not just those who want the easy life. In cycling, we need to start with the grass roots, initially just persuading people away

THE Government is considering 25 applications to build and run a British Academy of Sport, which is to be set up to provide a centre for future Olympic medal-winners and successful national teams. Backed with £100 million of National Lottery funding, the academy will not only have the best sports facilities in the country, to attract the elite competitors, but will provide financial backing for talented youngsters to stay and train there. It will have facilities for sports medicine, physiotherapy, coaching

and sports science. The successful bid for the academy is expected to be announced early next year. The Prime Minister has emphasised that he wants to see the academy set up on a greenfield site, probably in the Midlands, so that competitors can reach the centre easily. John Goodbody and Andrew Longmore have canvassed opinions from six Olympic medal-winners from different sports on what facilities they would like to see at the academy.



Ben Ainslie
Yachtsman

YACHTING, by its very nature, has tended to be a sport apart from the rest. Though the governing body (the Royal Yachting Association) has worked to set up a structure and develop young talent, it is often up to individuals to make their

own ways. It is difficult to see exactly where a central academy of sport would fit in. Ideally, there would be a coastal centre of excellence, funded and run by the central academy and including facilities for fitness training and boat repairs, for example, a focus for coaching and preparation, a place where we could hold international training camps and

learn from other teams. The problem is that yachting is still viewed more as an expensive pastime than an Olympic sport. Otherwise, I would use a central academy as a support system, to learn about diet, nutrition, techniques of physical and mental preparation. An academy would act as a reservoir of experience and knowledge.



Kate Howey
Judo fighter

I WOULD like to see a large permanent mat area — there is really only one at the moment in Britain — so that national squads have a suitable facility. There should be a full-time coach based at the academy. If this is not the national coach, it should be someone close to him or her.

There should be a similar medical and research setup to the British Olympic medical centre at Northwick Park in north London. I have found the centre helpful for testing and recovering from injury. However, people from the North do not use it because it is too far away.

The academy should have facilities for weight training, swimming and running, so one can do plenty of cross training. Excellent facilities will also attract elite competitors from other activities, so that judo squads can talk to them about how they are coping with their problems. We can then help each other.

For judo, I would like to see the academy open on one night a week for visitors, so that we have different people with whom to train. However, most of the time I would like to see the academy just for the elite, who are able to stay there for some weeks on end.



Paul Palmer
Swimmer

THE academy should be the central hub of a wheel, with other regional centres as the spokes. It should be in the middle of the country, not in London, and should have a 50-metre pool, for which the top, dedicated swimmers would have exclusive access. At the moment, it is very



Greg Searle
Oarsman

THE priorities should be, first, youth development and, second, coaching development. I would see the academy as a university of sport, somewhere talented young sportsmen and women can go to pursue their sporting careers, further their education, and like any other university, have fun. In rowing, we have a good schools system. The problem comes after leaving school. Too many oarsmen are lost because they have to choose between rowing and education. It is vital that the academy should be a recognised centre for sport, not just a collection of regional centres, a place for athletes to train and share experiences, also an inspirational place for children to visit.

Ideally, facilities would include a 2,000-metre six-lane rowing lake. We have one in this country, Germany has about 20.

difficult to get regular access to the few 50-metre pools in the country because clubs and members of the public use the facilities.

Leading swimmers would be attracted to the academy, whereas at the moment they largely train with their clubs. This would mean that they could work against each other and so improve their standards. There should be residential accommodation so that competitors could live at university kind of existence. Everything should be on tap: medical support, facilities for stroke analysis, gymnasiums.

When we went to Athens in Georgia last April, for a pre-Olympic training camp, we stayed on an ordinary university campus but everyone still said: "If only we had a facility such as this in Britain." There was a 50-metre pool and the weight-training facilities were out of this world.

Brands Hatch cashing in on track record

Brands Hatch Leisure has undergone something of a revolution over the past ten years. Once a private concern run by motor racing enthusiasts for enthusiasts, it has turned itself into a multi-leisure theme park. Profits have shot up and, on Thursday, it will become the first motor racing circuit listed on the London Stock Exchange.

The decision to go where the money is, leaving the professional sport behind if need be, has transformed its fortunes. The company, while capitalising on the legendary reputation of its prize circuit, no longer feels the need to host the sporting events on which its reputation was built. Motor racing is, ironically, the least rewarding activity of racing circuits. Events like the British Grand Prix are now run by separate companies, who walk away with the advertising revenues and leave the venue with little more than it can collect at the gate. Nor are the supporters great spenders. Once in the grandstand, they part with little more than £14 per head.

Brands Hatch has come up with an answer. While it has not hosted the British Grand Prix for ten years, it still ranks as one of the most famous circuits in the world. The venue still has enormous pulling power and the business has found that the real money is made in packaging its circuits as a themed funfair, not a sporting event.

The most successful spin-offs have been the racing schools, at Brands Hatch, Oulton Park and Snetterton, which now rake in £2 million per year. Customers are queuing up to spend up to £240 per day living out their fantasies. For businessmen who have dreamed about racing at Brands Hatch since childhood, it is worth every penny.

More profitable still are the conference facilities, where, spending other people's money, delegates splash out on food, accommodation and other entertainment facilities, always eager to adjourn to the pits.

Motor racing, once the raison d'être of Brands Hatch, now brings in less than a third of its revenue. Nicola Foulston, 29, the chief execu-



utive, would like to see this reduced even further. She is happy to admit that the company's thinking can be summed up thus: if it does not make money, we will not do it. Brands Hatch has been richly rewarded for its conversion to the ways of the market. It has just raised £9.3 million through floating on the Stock Exchange, £5 million of which will be spent refurbishing grandstands at its four courses, and building new conference centres. But now, it is largely owned by merchant banks, who will expect a cut of profits and a say in organisation.

Silverstone, meanwhile, is adamant that it will never go down the same path. It is owned and run by the British Racing Drivers' Club (BRDC), which shares its profits with no one and puts every penny back into the sport. The BRDC is well aware that motor racing is not very profitable, but this causes little concern. It knows that it could boost profits by letting businessmen whizz round its tracks in go-karts. But Silverstone sees its first duty to the sport, viewing the business side as a means to an end. Profits are not growing as quickly as they could, but none of the directors is particularly bothered.

Brands Hatch once had the same ethos and, ten years ago, the directors met in a Portakabin. Foulston has spent her 20s revamping the company she inherited, and has seen its value jump by seven times. But, while the circuit still ranks alongside Silverstone in public esteem, Brands Hatch now runs its four tracks from a completely different perspective.

FRASER NELSON

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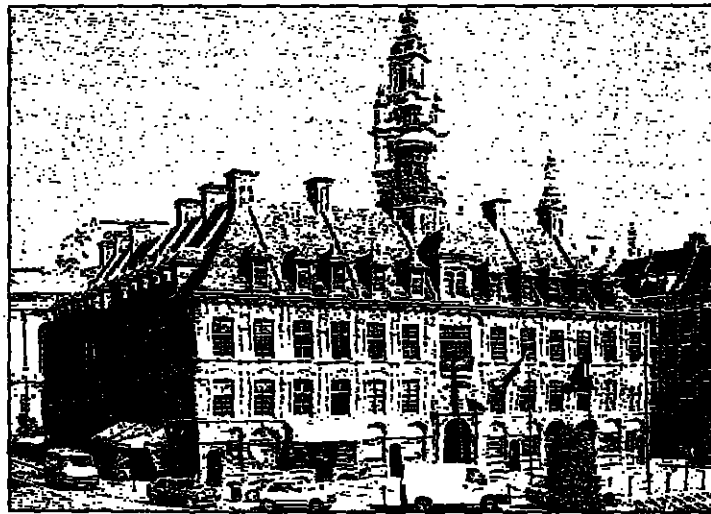
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CHANGING TIMES

BASKETBALL

Newcastle progress despite loss of New

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE last three first division clubs bowed out of the Classic Cola National Cup by margins of 30 points or more at the weekend — but not before one of them had provoked their celebrated Budweiser League visitors into a fit of temper.

It was for flatterer Daniel Hildreth, very much an agent provocateur for Ware Rebels, that Michael New was expelled from Newcastle Eagles' first-round tie nine seconds from half-time. "He was lucky I only pushed him," the 6ft 9in centre said after his team's 102-70 victory.

A series of minor flashpoints, all involving Hildreth, 20, a shaven-headed guard, had been a feature of the first half. As the interval approached, with the Eagles only 38-36 ahead, New's patience snapped. He claimed afterwards that Hildreth had elbowed him when the ball was dead.

Ironically, it was after New's exit — with 15 points to his name — that the Eagles assumed command, collecting 37 of the next 48 points. The 35-point contribution of Charlie Mandi, including nine dunks, was a bonus for their coach, Tom Hancock.

"No matter what I thought of what was going on in the first half and what the problems were, I had to make the players take the general responsibility for their own ineptness," Hancock said.

Anthony Joseph, the playmaker discarded by Newcastle, has joined Crystal Palace, albeit too late to help Alton Byrd's squad emulate their feat of last season, when they reached the semi-finals. Palace succumbed 91-61 to Manchester Giants.

Nate Reinking recorded 32 points in Leicester Riders' 84-74 win at Worthing Bears. The closest he was at Bracknell, where, with nine seconds left, Peter Scantlebury hit the two free throws that gave Thames Valley Tigers an 80-79 win over Derby Storm.

SPORTS LETTERS

Yachting abandonments undermine safety

From Mr Julian Everett

Sir, The cancellation of a yacht race may not seem that serious, but there are life and death implications in the growing trend of sailing clubs abandoning races due to high winds, as did the Hamble River Sailing Club last Sunday.

Ocean racing is a unique sport. You can't "stop" if the weather turns bad. You can't pull off the road or go back to the clubhouse. Even in relatively warm and sheltered waters and on short races you require a basic skill to manage the wind and waves. You can never master them, but you must be in tune with your moods. Perhaps the nearest equivalent is mountaineering where there are strong similarities in regard to the requirements for self-sufficiency.

The Royal Ocean Racing Club, founded in 1925 to promote offshore racing in small yachts, has rarely failed to start a race in its 50-year history. The responsibility for

the boat and crew is unashamedly down to the skipper.

It is the skipper's and/or crew's decision whether to race or not. They are responsible for the seaworthiness of their yacht and for their own abilities to deal with whatever the weather might throw at them. In this way the concept of self-sufficiency is allowed to develop and the ultimate safety of the participants is enhanced.

The cancellation of a yacht race due to inclement weather poses interesting questions. The regatta organisers, ever more terrified of litigation should they start a race in "too-much wind", now seem more likely to adopt a fair weather bias on the grounds of "safety". It is a misguided and wholly inappropriate response and one likely to undermine safety rather than promote it. There are two significant knock-on effects:

1. The skill levels of crews able to cope with heavy weather is degraded due to lack of prac-

tice. What better place is there than in the relatively sheltered waters of the Solent to learn about the capabilities of your yacht and crew prior to venturing offshore where you may have to cope with unexpectedly high winds and big seas and where you won't be able to escape them.

2. The sea-keeping qualities of the yachts themselves will be slowly reduced as designers optimise the boats for light and medium weather, ignoring the possibility that the yachts will have to race in strong winds.

Race committees may think they are acting responsibly by not sending yachts out to race in sheltered water when the wind is gale force, but in fact they are undermining the very necessary skills required to survive offshore and are trivialising the need to produce sound, well-found yachts that can survive the worst weather.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN EVERETT,
9 Wyndham Street, W1.

Fair play ignored

From Mr Michael W. Brown

Sir, The only thing amiss with Mr S. C. Julian's letter ("Referees deserve support", October 28) is that it does not go far enough.

I saw my first League match at Fratton Park, Portsmouth, in 1949. Since then, it has demonstrated the policy of many professional football managers, coaches and players to use foul play and law-breaking as part of their tactical approach to gain an advantage either directly or during a match by attenuating the referee's authority.

This has now reached epidemic proportions. At any corner kick, for example, an averagely competent referee could award free kicks and penalties galore to penalise the shirt-pulling, tripping, ankle-tapping, elbowing, pushing, back-nudging, holding and obstruction which routinely occurs. Outfield play is little better.

This cynical disregard of fair play has been aided by the "experts" in the media, mainly in the form of attacks on referees, who are doing no more than applying the laws.

There was a classic example in the Manchester derby match in February this year.

At a corner kick Cantona, lurking on the far side of the penalty area, was held (and held down) from behind in a bear-hug by an opponent. The corner sailed harmlessly over everybody's head, but the referee immediately — and correctly — awarded a penalty.

The pundits' comments ranged from suggesting that the referee was wrong (he wasn't), biased (ditto) or over-officious (ditto again). "No where near the ball" was a typical comment, despite the fact that the law specifically rules that the location of the ball is irrelevant. "No clear scoring chance" was another, although this is relevant only to the issue of whether the offender is sent off (he wasn't) as well as penalised. A foul is a foul.

I asked one commentator, who had severely criticised the referee, what he would have said if the offender, standing under the referee's nose, had punched Cantona as the ball passed overhead. Instead of holding him — both offences ranking the same treatment under the laws, although differ-

ent criminally. No answer, no apparent understanding, no shame, either, for maintaining a calumny against an honest — and, as much to the point, completely correct — official.

Another group of television commentators suggested that if fouls such as the above were routinely penalised there might be ten penalties a side in each match. That is a price I would willingly pay. Law-breaking, after all, is the easy way to frustrate skill without possessing it yourself; and it is now so ingrained in the professional game that it needs a refereeing revolution to bring on-field conduct back to an acceptable standard.

A man's game it certainly is, so why don't those managing and playing it professionally act like men, stay within the laws and keep quiet when their underhand methods are detected and penalised?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BROWN,
Marwick, 5 Hendon Close,
Highbridge, Somerset.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

SOUTHAMPTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

FOCUS

In search of future cures

Pat Blair introduces a three-page report on Southampton's medical school, 25 years old and still in the forefront of research and training

When Southampton Medical School was inaugurated on October 29, 1971, it was opened by Sir Keith Joseph, then Secretary of State for Social Services. It was one of only three medical schools opened in this century, the others being Nottingham and Leicester.

Uniquely, however, the Southampton school was conceived jointly by the university and what was then the regional health authority of the NHS. They saw it as an unparalleled opportunity to set up a regional organisation in which service, education and research could support each other.

That was not the only respect in which it was unique among medical schools. From their first term, students were in contact with patients, albeit gradually at first.

There was also what Professor (now Sir) Donald Acheson, the founding Dean of Medicine, called "the boldest innovation in the Southampton course". Students would be expected to spend their fourth year in research — apart from a day of clinical work a week and six weeks' elective clinical work — studying a subject in depth and presenting their dissertations for scrutiny at their annual scientific conference.

"It was ahead of its time, in

that medical students went out into primary care to local district general hospitals in the area not just to the teaching hospital," says David Moss, chief executive of the Southampton University Hospital Trust, which has close links with both the medical school and the university.

The medical faculty comprises four schools, each with its own head: the School of Medicine; the School of Nursing and Midwifery; the School of Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy; one of only two combined schools in the UK; and the School of Biological Sciences.

The NHS trust is closely involved in the student curriculum. Its director of medical education sits on the faculty's education committee.

"Obviously we have a big input to the delivery of those curriculums: our consultants teach and our services provide exposure for students," says Mr Moss.

The School of Medicine started with 40 students, an annual intake that has now more than quadrupled, says Professor Eric Thomas, the head of the school.

There have been other shifts. The founding professors were selected as all-rounders in terms of teaching, research and their clinical ability. But with a shift in how government allocates money,



A student researcher: students are expected to spend their fourth year on research

the emphasis and expectation of clinical academics have also altered. All medical schools, when considering new appointments, now take more account of people's research abilities.

"There is more focus on research now," says Professor Thomas, mentioning the change in the medical school's grants for new research: in 1991, £3.1 million; by 1995-96 £14 million.

In 1992, the then regional health authority, in collaboration with the university, set up the Wessex Institute with the idea of rejuvenating public health and health services

research. "We've now built up quite a wide portfolio of research," says Professor John Gabbay, director of the Institute. It co-ordinates the NHS's national programme for assessing health technology, which includes drugs, equipment and devices used in healthcare, as well as the way services are best organised.

Each year, it sifts to about 40 research topics from the 1,000 that people in the NHS feel they might need answers to if they want to purchase or provide better health. These are then funded by the national NHS research and development programme and

commissioned from the best research groups nationwide, including Southampton.

The NHS trust is freeing space, and it will cost the school about £680,000 to expand laboratories in what is known as the Duthie-Tenover building. Professor Thomas and his team will shortly be seeking more scientists to work in this building, taking the school further forward in its quest for excellence.

Meanwhile various events, including dances and a lecture series, are planned, both to celebrate the school's first 25 years and to raise funds for the new laboratories.

Finding the answers in cyberspace

Teaching materials will soon be available on the Internet

The medical school is the servant of the community wherever patients are being looked after, Pat Blair writes. So says Chris Thompson, a Professor of Psychiatry based at the Royal South Hants Hospital in Southampton.

"Our task," he says, "is to ensure that those students get access to medical care in the full range of facilities in which it is provided today. Not just in operating theatres but also in people's homes, day centres, day hospitals."

From its inception, Southampton exposed students to patients within weeks of their starting medical education, a practice that has since spread to many other medical schools.

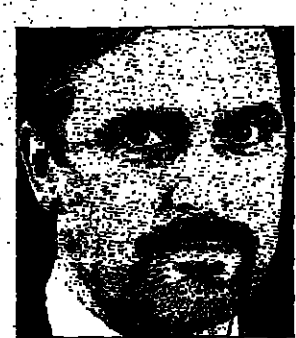
It has several advantages, Professor Thompson says, as it allows students to learn how multidisciplinary teams work. "In psychiatry, students track community psychiatric nurses, to see how they work: they go with consultant psychiatrists to see patients in their homes. A lot of psychiatry is carried out this way now, so it is essential that students see modern practice."

It was also important for students to see patients when they were normal, at home, to take into account the impact of an illness on the family.

He cites the case of a man in his fifties, retired on medical grounds because of severe manic depression. "When I took over his care, his wife was at the end of her tether because she wasn't coping. He had had about two relapses a year for the previous five years. She was asking me to do a frontal lobotomy, like *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*."

He refused. There were other treatments to try. Within two months the man

was discharged from hospital. "We did one other crucial thing apart from giving him the right treatment. We said to his wife: you're the expert on his condition. When you see him getting ill, phone us urgently and we promise to respond immediately. After a while, when she trusted us, it lowered her anxiety about getting treatment when he needed it."



Professor Chris Thompson of the Royal South Hants

Today, the couple has a happy married and social life.

Depression is an important focus of research in Southampton, from basic sciences, through treatment to the delivery of care. Here, computer technology is beginning to play a significant part in teaching and learning. An interactive computer program, printed on to CD and delivered on a laptop, has already won an award from the British Institute of Multimedia Art.

Aimed at GPs and dealing with depression, it uses high-quality video of a

patient entering as if consulting the viewer, the doctor. The doctor has a multiple-choice bank of questions depending on the question asked, the patient will answer.

"You drive the interview almost like a real interview," says Professor Thompson. Once information has been elicited, the doctor is asked to make a diagnosis. If it is incorrect, the program says why, pointing out missed aspects of symptoms.

The CD carries information about depression, together with drug treatments, appropriate psychological and social approaches and the scientific literature that supports the treatment options.

Soon they will be producing undergraduate teaching materials on CD. That will lead us on towards providing that over the Internet, so when our students are situated in placements around Wessex, they will be able to go to a computer terminal linked to the Internet and tap in to their own Southampton University interactive psychiatry textbook."

He is now forming partnerships with commercial organisations to expand and speed up the work. "We think we should have it all on line by the middle of next year," he says.

It is unlikely to put psychiatrists out of business. But, he says, "We think that patients need to know much more about their illnesses and the treatments being offered so they can make informed choices." Some information containing the most important points about an illness and its treatment could be tailored to patients. "It could then be delivered in GPs surgeries or in outpatient clinics."

Professor Thompson thinks production is possibly only two years away.



The School of Medicine greatly values the partnership with industry which supports and enhances its work in education, research and patient care.

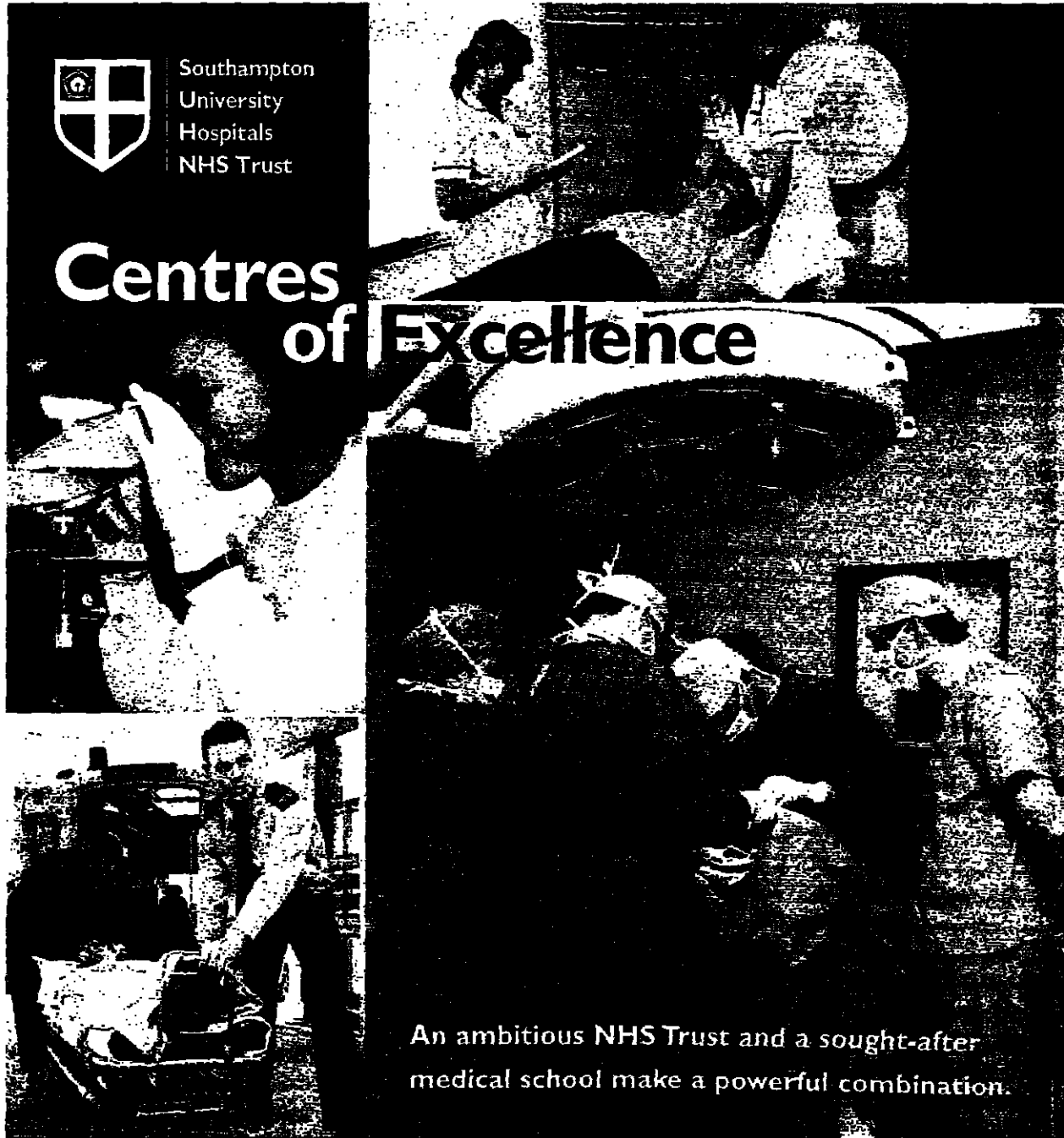
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Students at Southampton can look for inspiration to world-beating research programmes on birth weight and asthma

You are what your mother ate — and the records prove it

In medicine, genuinely fresh ideas are rare. They often originate from a new way of looking at the evidence, or a new analytical technique.

But few would have expected that poring over the records made by midwives and health visitors more than half a century ago would lead to a new perception of many modern diseases. It is the achievement of Professor David Barker and his team, at the Medical Research Council's Environmental Epidemiology Unit at Southampton, to have done just that.

In a series of studies published over the past 10 years, they have shown that the weight of a baby at birth and at one year of age is a strong predictor of its future chances of developing heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, chronic obstructive lung disease and stroke.

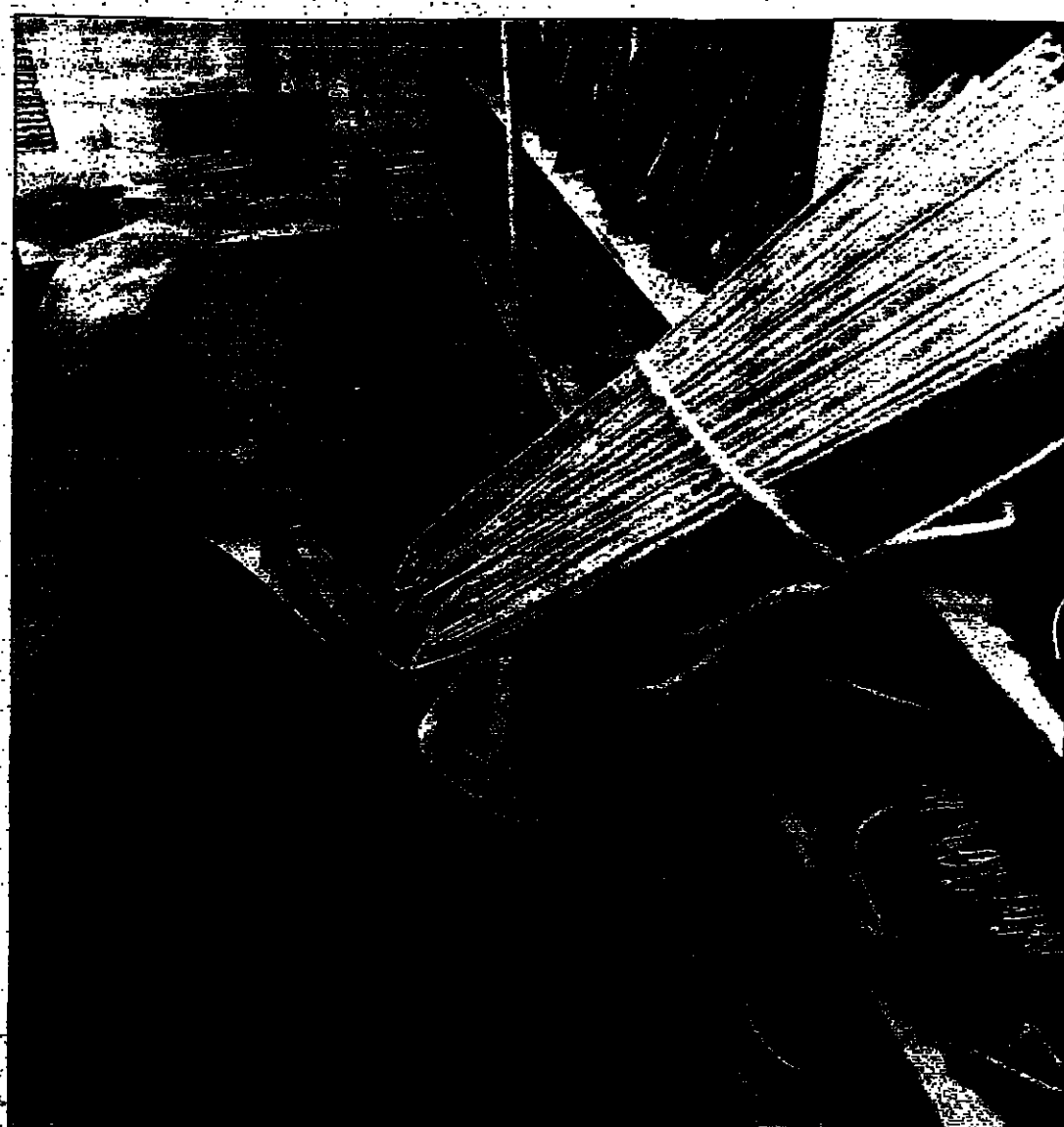
Poor nutrition of mothers during pregnancy handicaps their babies, and increases their chances of adding to the toll of heart disease, the Western world's greatest killer.

The pattern was first spotted by studying birth records taken by health visitors in Hertfordshire, beginning in 1911, and at a hospital in Preston a little later.

By comparing birth weights and weights at one from the Hertfordshire records with the subsequent life histories of 6,500 men, Professor Barker found that weight at one was a far better predictor of death from heart disease than was the cholesterol level of the men within a year or two of their deaths. The lighter babies were the ones at greater risk.

When these results first appeared, many suspected they were an artefact — that weight at birth and at one was simply a "marker" for other handicaps, including poverty. But the weight of evidence continues to accumulate.

"Identical results have now been produced in Sweden and in the US," says Professor Barker. "It's



Professor Barker with the records that prompted his theories about birth weight as a predictor

very important to have independent replication of the results, and very gratifying that they confirm what we found."

The work cuts through some of the paradoxes which long surrounded dietary theories of heart disease. For example, if a rich diet is the problem, why are deaths from heart disease commoner among the poor? Heart disease began, after all, as a disease of the affluent.

The model explains that by pointing out that the affluent were the first to enjoy a richer diet as adults, for which their experience in the womb had not prepared them. This means that heart disease first affected the rich, with poorer people following. In this way, the rise and now the decline of heart disease rates followed half a century behind the fetal experience that helped to determine it.

The team is conducting a big new study to build on this success. Two groups of 1,000 women, one in India and the other in Southampton, have been followed during their pregnancies, and their diets recorded. When they had their babies, records of birth weights and other details were taken.

"In a couple of years we will follow up by measuring the blood pressure in these babies," Professor Barker says. "We don't need to wait until they are adult and have developed diseases — we can tell much sooner than that."

He expects that blood pressure in the infants will conform to the pattern already established from the historical records: the lighter babies have higher blood pressure.

The work is also producing indications of what it is about maternal diet that influences the baby's fate. "It obviously can't be

simply a lack of food," he says. "Not many people in the West suffer from that any more." What is emerging is that there is a balance between protein and carbohydrate in early pregnancy that needs to be maintained if the baby is to develop in an optimum way.

If being too small at birth is not a good thing, should we all be aiming to produce huge babies? Not necessarily so, because the evidence is that heavy babies are more likely to suffer from breast, ovary and prostate cancers.

It looks as if there is a balance to be struck in a mother's nutrition during pregnancy to achieve the best chance of long life and health for her baby. Over the next few years, Professor Barker and his team will be trying to establish what that balance is.

NIGEL HAWKES

Seeking answers to the genetic mysteries of asthma

Asthma affects 11 per cent of adults and up to 20 per cent of children in Britain — yet it barely exists in the rest of the animal kingdom. Why is it unique to human beings?

In three or four centres in the UK, including Southampton, scientists are seeking the answer to that question.

"We are way ahead of America and most of Europe," says Stephen Holgate, Professor of Respiratory Medicine at Southampton, "because we've been studying human disease, whereas many other institutions have been trying to model it in animals."

One answer may lie in genes. Asthma is known to cluster in families, so Southampton researchers are comparing blood samples in families where asthma is prevalent, looking for a linkage between markers.

"If you show that a particular marker moves with a disease through multiple families, you know you have an area of the chromosome that's generally important in the disease," says Professor Holgate. "We've found two, possibly three areas of great interest."

A second approach, about to start, is a random human gene search, where markers are placed at regular intervals along the whole human genome and then tracked with the movement of the disease through families. That may lead to the discovery of other areas of chromosome involved in asthma. The aim is to identify those at risk of developing asthma from an early age, and perhaps prevent it, to provide new targets for drugs, and to learn more about the mechanisms of asthma.

The research shows that about 80 per cent of all severe asthma attacks lasting more than two days are virus-related rather than, as most people think, due to allergies. "So you have an interaction between allergens, which underlie the onset of the disease through the



Professor Stephen Holgate: the team is ahead of America

genetic predisposition, now linking to viruses which can feed off this and make it worse," Professor Holgate explains. In the department of child health, meanwhile, Professor John Warner and his team are discovering that even at birth there appears to be a defect in the production of the substance encoded on chromosome 12 that suppresses an asthma attack.

They are investigating the environmental influences affecting the foetus and new-born baby that may trigger allergic disease, particularly asthma, in those who have a genetic predisposition.

Professor Warner says: "Even if you inherit the genes for an allergic problem from your parents, you don't necessarily develop the problem. We believe that the genes that predispose you to aller-

gy are common in the population: it might even be normal to have them because they influence the immune response that allows you to fight against parasitic infections."

The Southampton team has found there is more happening antenatally than was previously believed. Contrary to previous belief, says Professor Warner, "most of the immune system is very mature by birth and a lot of the primary events that set the immune system going have occurred during pregnancy."

This could include babies already being "switched on" to react in an allergic way to milk, eggs, house mites or animal hairs, "even in the womb". They also know that if the switch-on is detected at birth as being excessive, many of those babies go on to get develop allergic problems.

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Why a student searched for surfers

The research projects undertaken by Southampton's students are many and various, reports Pat Blair — but all have to be presented to a conference

Last month the current crop of fourth-year students at Southampton Medical School started to take stock of a wide range of subjects for potential research. It is a feature of the school that though fourth-year students are expected to do a clinical speciality with clinical attachments, they are also expected to concentrate on research.

Each student chooses his or her own area of interest, which may be in clinical or basic science fields, and studies one aspect of it in depth. The range of subjects researched, written up in a 5,000-word dissertation, presented and justified to the annual conference in May, is as great as the number of students.

One student, about three years ago, roamed beaches around Southampton to find wind surfers. After measuring sea contamination around the South Coast, she was trying to find a connection with cases of gastroenteritis, diarrhoea and vomiting among people who had been in the sea.

Currently, there are research studies involving the incidence of asthma in children, growing cancer cells in culture, and microscopic experiments in physiology and biochemistry.

"It's a huge range of projects," says Rod Thompson, Professor of Clinical Biochemistry and the fourth year co-ordinator. And it is complicated to run so many projects across the whole medical school in a wide variety of fields.

Not many student conferences can, however, boast such eminent speakers as the Nobel Prize winner James Watson, of DNA fame, Baroness Warnock and Sir Donald Acheson, the former Chief Medical Officer. It is a measure of the success of the medical school's approach that such luminaries appear pleased to be invited by students presenting their own scientific studies.

The point of this approach,

as well as acquiring research methods and skills, is to help them develop inquiring minds and to develop their independence as learners.

"We want them to learn to be able to appraise research evidence critically," says Professor John Gabbay, who is part of a team reviewing the fourth year project. "We think that doctors ought to be able to do that but are often not properly trained." "We want them to be able to understand the nature and context of research and how it informs practice, and we believe it is best to learn about research by doing some at a reasonable amount of depth, preferably in a clinical context."

"We think it's very important that students learn to think for themselves and have a culture of inquiry rather than of receiving wisdom from on high."

Though some projects do find their way into scientific journals, which subsequently looks good on CVs, that is not the point of the exercise. "In our view, the assessment should be looking at the process, rather than the outcome of the research project," says Professor Gabbay.

Professor Thompson adds: "All the students get useful experience of research methods. It stands them in good stead in whatever branch of medicine they finish up." Apart from those who take up research posts, some Southampton graduates continue their interest in research once they leave medical school.

One London GP, Mark Ashworth, who graduated in 1979 and who has just received a £52,000 research grant to study respite care, says that it was without doubt his fourth year project that nurtured his interest in research. "I don't think I would still be doing research otherwise," he says.

He had been studying symptoms of wheat allergy. "We even thought we'd identified new symptoms." It opened his eyes. He says: "It was exciting: there were discover-

ies waiting to be made out there."

Professor Gabbay's hope is to find a way of evaluating properly the extent to which this happens and the proportion of students who are similarly inspired.

Today, there are 15 applications for each of the 165 available places at the school. From the outset, Southampton set aside places for graduates and mature students. They now form about 18 per cent of the annual intake. Although many have come from related disciplines, such as dentistry, chemistry and physiotherapy, they have also embraced people who have decided to change career entirely. These have included engineers, social workers and submariners, one of whom is now a GP with the Royal Navy.

"They're extremely committed," says Professor Thompson. "My experience is that people who come into medicine late work very hard and do well. Most people who have experience of mature students find them a success."

Professor Eric Thomas, the head of the School of Medicine, comments: "Mature graduates are usually highly motivated and well-focused. The down side is that they can be self-critical."



Southampton students with David Barrett, orthopaedic surgeon. Later they will have to present their own research

Primary care caught by the throat

Many people go to family doctors complaining of sore throats. Should they be given antibiotics immediately, or if they don't clear up within a few days? Or do they make no difference? What do patients think about antibiotics? Would they go back to their doctor about a sore throat?

The answers to some of these questions may influence how GPs nationwide treat the problem. They have been posed in one of the largest studies of sore throat treatments ever done in Britain in

general practice. The results will be published soon.

The pilot study and part of the main project were carried out at Aldermoor Health Centre. It is a normal health centre, with four full-time doctors caring for 8,000 patients. But it is also Southampton medical school's general practice unit for teaching and research. "Not all our research is done through the practice, although some is," says Dr Jenny Field, senior lecturer in primary medical care. "But the practice has been enormously valuable in

carrying out pilot projects, in being a sounding board for the feasibility of projects in other practices."

The sore-throat pilot study, for example, involved an anthropologist observing patients and asking them what they thought were the important outcomes of their consultation. Their answers influenced the questionnaires used in the main project.

Between 80 and 90 per cent of all medical care in the UK is carried out not in hospital but in primary health care —

general practices, health centres, people's homes. So it is important that research is also undertaken in those settings.

Aldermoor was, for example, involved in a comparison of antibiotics versus placebo in the treatment of otitis media, inflammation of the middle ear which, in practice, means a red, painful ear.

"A lot of work was done in the practice initially, trying to identify what kinds of ears doctors would and would not treat," says Dr Field. The project showed that antibiotics reduced the length of pain

by about one day. "But to the average mother with a child with otitis media, one day's reduction to the length of pain is pretty important" she says.

Southampton believes strongly that it should provide experience of primary care and of community medical services as well as hospital-based services. More than 40 per cent of the region's GPs are involved in teaching, an unusually large proportion. And the patients? "On the whole," says Dr Field, "they are very keen to help students learn."

"There is life after surgery"

REHABILITATION is at the forefront of thinking in medical development, according to Lindsay McLellan, Europe Professor of Rehabilitation at Southampton. "We are starting to see there is perhaps more to disease than just curing pathology."

There is life beyond drugs and surgery, he says, and students need to discern not only the contribution patients make to their own recovery, but the impact of disability on the family and on life in society.

As well as doctors and nurses, there are also therapists, sociologists and a teacher among Professor McLellan's staff of 30. "Otherwise you haven't got the range of expertise you need to tackle the problems."

A research programme, funded by the Department of Health, is undertaken in the Disability Equipment Assessment Centre, one of three nationwide. Equipment used by and for disabled people is assessed: anything from a commode to a special pen for a child who cannot hold one properly. Formal reports, with user trials and guidelines for selecting appropriate equipment, are issued to all health authorities.

To the regret of Professor McLellan (who is a neurologist), the department's "least successful impact" has been on clinical services within the Southampton University Hospital Trust. He says: "There have been few rehabilitation service developments in Southampton for the past 12 years, despite a plethora of managers."

But complaints of that kind, of course, are common among medical staff in every hospital.

Changes in GP services must pass the quality test



A nurse could be used to answer out-of-hours calls to doctors and direct them to the appropriate service

Think twice before you call your doctor. So runs the theme of a government campaign trying to stem the rise in out-of-hours calls to GPs, to enable them to concentrate on medical emergencies. Such a mass-population campaign is doomed to failure, says Dr Steve George, senior lecturer in public health medicine at Southampton Medical School. He considers that it is rather a simplistic notion to tell people only to call the doctor about important things.

"The public has no idea what's important medically and what's not," he says. "How should they? They are not experts. If they did not think it important, they would not have phoned. We really need to develop appropriate responses to the demand that is there."

Whether the increase is in after-surgery calls, or in demand for emergency ambulances, Dr George believes that new systems must be thoroughly tested before they are adopted. His team is investigating whether one way to meet patients'

A health expert is trying to devise ways of meeting patients' needs, while making better use of resources

needs, reduce doctors' stress and use resources better, would be to employ a nurse specifically to answer out-of-hours calls and direct them to the appropriate service.

Dr George is midway through the £500,000, three-year trial involving 50 GPs with a 100,000 patients. Under it, the duty nurse either gives advice and reassurance, puts callers through to the GP, or calls an ambulance. "People need not be afraid of calling," he says.

He also points out that what seems a great idea may not be in practice. What happens if an urgent case is missed? He says: "Not all GPs are perfect, and neither are all nurses. We need to compare them in a controlled situation."

His worry is that GPs might adopt such systems before they have been tested. In 1994, when his investigation started, none were operating

now, he says, "they're springing up all over". What happens, he wonders, if the results show they are not a good thing?

His concern is understandable. In a Department of Health-funded study four years ago at Sheffield University, Dr George caused some controversy when he found that a system designed to cut waiting times in hospital accident and emergency departments did not work. The nurse triage system — where patients are assigned a priority, such as "must be treated now", or "can wait an hour" — actually increased waiting times, especially for the most urgent cases.

Though casualties were seen by someone within five minutes — thus meeting government targets — the wait for treatment lengthened. The

previous informal system had been quicker. The Southampton team is now exploring why, despite the evidence, A&E departments are still operating triage systems.

If waiting times and GP call-outs are national concerns, so too is the general rise in 999 ambulance calls.

In an 18-month study due to end late next year, the Southampton team is reviewing ambulance records going back 10 years to try to establish why demand has risen. That, coupled with a survey of GPs' perceptions of the reasons, may give clues to better, more appropriate services nationwide.

What has been coined the evaluation bypass — "a bit of marketing, a bit of enthusiasm and a bit of ignorance and things get incorporated anyway," explains Dr George — is not good enough, he says. Only by testing what does or does not work will services meet people's real demands in the long term and that is what he and his colleagues are aiming for.

PAT BLAIR

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Former tenant a tolerated trespasser

Burrows v Brent London Borough Council

Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Griffiths, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle and Lord Steyn
[Speeches October 31]

In the absence of special circumstances, an agreement between a secured tenant and a landlord of property protected by Part IV of the Housing Act 1985 for the tenant to continue in possession after the date specified in a possession order did not give rise to a new tenancy.

It was an agreement that, upon the tenant complying with agreed conditions, the landlord would forbear from executing the possession order, so finally putting an end to the tenant's right to apply to the court for an order reviving the tenancy. The tenant was a tolerated trespasser until either the old tenancy was revived or the conditions were breached.

The House of Lords so held allowing an appeal by the defendant, Brent London Borough Council, against the dismissal by the Court of Appeal (The Times July 21, 1995; [1995] 94 LGR 525), of the council's appeal from Judge Finstein, QC, in Willesden Crown Court on August 19, 1994.

The judge had (i) granted a declaration that the plaintiff, Diane Sarah Elizabeth Burrows, was a secure tenant of 28 Oxford Road, Kilburn, a flat owned by the council, pursuant to an agreement made between them on February 5, 1992 and (ii) granted a mandatory injunction against the council to re-admit her to the flat.

Section 82 of the Housing Act 1985 provides: "(1) A secure tenancy which is either - (a) a weekly or other periodic tenancy, or (b) a tenancy for a term certain but subject to termination by the landlord, cannot be brought to an end by the landlord except by obtaining an order of the court for the possession of the dwelling-house."

(2) Where the landlord obtains an order for the possession of the dwelling-house, the tenancy ends

on the date on which the tenant is to give up possession in pursuance of the order.

Section 83 provides: "(1) Where proceedings are brought for possession of a dwelling-house let under a secure tenancy [for the non-payment of rent] the court may adjourn the proceedings for such period or periods as it thinks fit."

(2) On the making of an order for possession of such a dwelling-house on any of those grounds, or at any time before the execution of the order, the court may - (a) stay or suspend the execution of the order, or (b) postpone the date of possession, for such period or periods as the court thinks fit."

(3) On such an adjournment, stay, suspension or postponement the court - (a) shall impose conditions with respect to the payment by the tenant of arrears of rent (if any) and rent or payments in respect of occupation after the termination of the tenancy (mesne profits), unless it considers that to do so would cause exceptional hardship to the tenant or would otherwise be unreasonable; and (b) may impose such other conditions as it thinks fit."

(4) If the conditions are complied with, the court may, if it thinks fit, discharge or rescind the order for possession."

Mr Ashley Underwood, QC and Mr Bryan McGuire for Brent; Mr David Neuberger, QC and Mr William Geldart for Diane Burrows.

LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON said Miss Burrows had fallen behind with her rent after her partner left her. Brent had obtained a final order for possession on February 12, 1992. On February 5, 1992 Miss Burrows had formally agreed to pay her rent arrears at a specified rate in return for the council's agreement not to seek to evict, but she had failed to do so. Brent issued a possession warrant which was executed on June 8, 1994.

She had obtained a declaration that she was a secure tenant and an injunction requiring the council

to reinstate her. The council's appeal had been dismissed.

The Court of Appeal had accepted that by section 82(2) Miss Burrows' original tenancy had terminated on February 12, 1992. Yet under the agreement of February 5, she remained in occupation paying a "rent charge".

That agreement could only take effect as an agreement to permit Miss Burrows to stay on after her existing tenancy had terminated. The agreement conferred a new right of occupation, either a new tenancy or a licence, which by section 79(3) of the 1985 Act was indistinguishable from a tenancy.

Brent had argued that she was merely a tolerated trespasser, but the Court of Appeal had rejected that argument as it would take her 14 years to pay off the arrears, and for that time she would enjoy none of the rights of a tenant.

Before their Lordships' house, Brent had advanced a more compelling argument based on *Greenwich LBC v Regan* (The Times February 8, 1996), namely that although under section 82(2) the original tenancy came to an end on February 12, 1992, the court had power under section 85(2) to postpone the date of possession. That power was exercisable "at any time before the execution of the order", even after the date for possession specified in the order had passed.

Section 85(3a) demonstrated that there could come a time when, although the old tenancy had terminated and the former tenant had remained in possession, the court could, until the original order was executed, make an order varying the date for the giving of possession thereby reviving the previously defunct tenancy.

Therefore, so far as the tenant was concerned, the crucial event was the execution of the order for possession. Down to that date the tenant could apply to the court for a variation of the original order substituting a new date on which possession was to be given thereby reviving the old secured tenancy.

His Lordship started from the

proposition that where a former tenant was by agreement allowed to remain in possession after the termination of the tenancy, the question in each case was what the parties had in mind depending on the circumstances, their conduct might give rise to a new tenancy or licence or some other arrangement.

In the instant case, on February 5, 1992 the parties plainly did not intend to create a new tenancy or licence but only to defer the execution of the order so long as Miss Burrows complied with the agreed conditions.

A secure tenancy under Part IV of the 1985 Act was not like an ordinary tenancy. It could only be terminated by order of the court, but even that was not final.

During the period between the date specified by the order for the giving of possession and the date on which the order was executed there was a period of limbo; the old tenancy had gone but might yet be revived by a further court order varying the date for possession.

If the parties reached an agreement on continued occupation by the tenant during that limbo period, their agreement could and should take effect as they intended, that is, as an agreement by the landlords that, upon the tenant complying with the agreed conditions, the landlords would forbear from executing the order, that is, from taking the step which would finally put an end to the tenant's right to apply to the court for an order reviving the tenancy.

There was no need to impute to the parties an intention to create a new tenancy or licence; the retention of possession and the payment of rent related to occupation under the former secure tenancy which was in limbo but which might be revived.

In those circumstances it was fair to characterise the former tenant as a trespasser whom the landlord had agreed not to evict, a tolerated trespasser, pending either the revival of the old tenancy or the breach of the agreed conditions. Although the old secure tenancy

was technically no longer in existence so that the neither the repairing covenants nor the Defective Premises Act 1972 applied, the tenant could at any time go to court to revive the tenancy by varying the date on which possession was to be given. There could be little doubt that the court would make the order if the tenant had complied with the agreed conditions.

LORD JAUNCEY, concurring, said the court's power to make an order postponing the date of possession could be exercised on the application of either party at any time prior to execution of that order and even after the secure tenancy had ended by reason of section 82(2).

However, whereas an order postponing the date of possession necessarily affected the operation of section 82(2), an order staying or suspending the execution of an order for possession on a stated date had no effect on the operation of that subsection but merely postponed the date on which the conditions of suspension were complied with.

The reference to mesne profits in section 82(3a) was relevant to the period of occupation after such a suspension as well as to any period of occupation between the termination of a tenancy under section 82 and the subsequent postponement of the date of possession under section 85(2a).

The words showed that Act contemplated the court requiring post-termination payments to be made by an occupier which were of a nature wholly inconsistent with the existence of any tenancy in his or her favour.

During the period between the termination of the secure tenancy and either its revival or the execution of the order for possession the occupier was not the former secure tenant derived not from any new lease but from the provisions of the Act.

LORD KEITH, Lord Griffiths and Lord Steyn agreed.

Solicitors: Mr Paul Barber, Brent; Daniel & Harris, Kilburn.

Copies were supplied in breach of undertaking

Bentley and Another v Gaisford and Another

Before Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Henry
[Judgment October 21]

A solicitor who gave an undertaking to hold documents to the account or to the order of another firm of solicitors in the interest of preserving that firm's retainer, was in breach of the undertaking if he photocopied the documents and sent the copies to the client.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, allowing the appeal of Keith Anthony Bentley, a solicitor, and Hewen & Co, a firm of solicitors, against the order of Judge William Crawford, QC, sitting as a High Court judge on March 12, 1996 whereby he dismissed the plaintiffs' application. The defendants, Robert Edmund Gaisford, a solicitor, and Sinclair, Roche & Temperley, a firm of solicitors, were the respondents to the appeal.

Mr John Cherryman, QC and Mr David Bailey for the plaintiffs; Mr Peter Cross, QC and Mr David Allen for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH said that the plaintiffs acted as solicitors for a client in Beijing who terminated their retainer in an arbitration and instructed them to send all relevant documents to the defendants, another firm of solicitors. The first solicitors made the documents available to the second solicitors on the latter's undertaking "to hold the documents/our file to our order in respect of outstanding fees/disbursements".

Mr Gaisford, the partner in the second solicitors dealing with the matter, as a result of concerns which were subsequently acknowledged by Mr Bentley, the partner dealing with the matter in the first solicitors, to be both genuine and reasonable, photocopied the entire file and sent copies to the clients in China.

Thus, the value of the first solicitors' retainer lien for unpaid fees and disbursements of some £14,000 was rendered worthless as the clients ceased to have any need for the original documents which were returned to the first solicitors.

The first solicitors now sought orders that the second solicitors deliver up the documents and any photocopies taken of them, that they be restrained from using any such documents and photocopies for the purposes of the arbitration, and financial compensation for breach of their undertaking to hold the papers to the first solicitors' order.

The judge below refused them any relief. He held that in taking the photocopies and sending them to the client, the second solicitors had not breached their undertaking.

In order to obtain wider protection the first solicitors should not have relied on the words "hold to our account" but should have required undertakings not to copy the documents for any purpose other than the preparation of a defence and counterclaim and not to supply their clients with any copy.

But that reasoning assumed that it was necessary to obtain from the second solicitors an undertaking before the lien survived at all. That was clearly contrary to the way the Court of Appeal in *Caldwell v Summers* (1972) 1 Ch 478.

The decided cases would indicate that the practice of solicitors who had been dismissed by their clients but whose fees had not been fully discharged, handing their

files to the new solicitors to "hold to our account" or "to hold to our order" was well established. Because the present case was the first of its kind his Lordship would conclude that it was a practice which had led to little difficulty in the real world.

He would allow the appeal and held that in copying every document in every file and sending copies of all those documents to the client, the second solicitors were in breach of the first solicitors' lien.

In making that finding he made it clear that he did not wish to cast any doubt on the good faith or integrity of Mr Gaisford, whom he was sure held the view contained in his affidavit and acted as he did in the belief that he was properly discharging his duty to his client and acting in a way which was not a breach of the first solicitors' lien.

However, in his Lordships' judgment, this was one of those rare cases where it was inappropriate to order any relief. The client now had the necessary papers and documents relating to the arbitration, albeit that they were copies of the documents which were originally held by the first solicitors.

In those circumstances it would be pointless to order the second solicitors to deliver up the copies that they had of those documents. For the same reason it was too late to order that the second solicitors be restrained from deploying or using such papers or documents in the arbitration.

Neither was it a case in which it was appropriate to order compensation. The principles upon which the courts would order a solicitor to pay compensation for breach of an undertaking were set out in *Udall v Capri Lighting Ltd* (in Liquidation) [1988] 1 QB 907, 916-918 by the Court of Appeal.

Simple breach of the undertaking was not sufficient to lead to an award of compensation under the summary jurisdiction of the courts to deal with breaches of undertaking by a solicitor.

Compensation was only available where the conduct of the solicitor was inequitable and such as to merit relief. That was not the case with Mr Gaisford's conduct.

Consequently his Lordship would allow the appeal, reverse the finding of the court below that the defendants were not in breach of the plaintiffs' lien, make a declaration to that effect and discharge the orders dismissing the plaintiffs' application and the further order that the plaintiffs pay the defendants' costs of the proceedings in that court but he would, exercising his court's discretion, decline to grant any of the relief sought by the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY, concurring, said that the submission made, in the fifth decade of the photocopy, that when one accepted documents subject to a general lien in the ordinary form one could in all circumstances immediately copy all documents so covered to the client was one he had never met in practice, and which had no authority behind it.

Were it not a novel suggestion, as he believed it to be, then one would expect authority dealing with the point, and/or that retaining liens would in practice be hedged about with "no copying" qualifications, and/or would have become obsolete. Neither of those things had happened.

Any solicitor seeking to preserve his retaining lien for his unpaid fees, but public spiritedly not wishing to cause unnecessary difficulties for his client in the litigation, notwithstanding the discharge of his retainer, would

wish to prevent the documents being copied to the client, and would provide accordingly if the lien did not already give him that protection in law.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, dissenting, said that in making copies of the documents and sending the copies to the client he acted in good faith in pursuing his duty to his client, in so doing, he was using the documents for a purpose connected with the arbitration. He agreed with the judge below that Mr Gaisford was not in breach of his undertaking.

Even if, contrary to the views he had expressed, the taking of copies of the documents was a breach of the second solicitors' undertaking to hold the documents to the first solicitors' order, he would not regard it as a case in which an order for compensation ought to be made.

It was accepted that Mr Gaisford acted in good faith and in pursuance of what he regarded as his duty to his client. If he was, unwittingly, in breach of the undertaking, his breach was brought about by the failure of the first solicitors, in seeking the undertaking, to be explicit as to what Mr Gaisford could and could not do with the documents. In those circumstances his conduct could not be regarded as inequitable or as meriting relief.

He would dismiss the appeal.

He was therefore in agreement with Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Henry that no substantive order in favour of the plaintiffs should be made.

His Lordship, however, desired to make clear his opinion that where, as here, an appeal had failed to achieve any of the substantive relief for which it was brought, an order that the appeal be allowed was a misrepresentation of the result.

If the purpose of such an order was to serve as a vehicle for an order for costs in favour of the ostensibly successful party, but in reality unsuccessful party, it was an unnecessary device. The court had in any event a full discretion in respect of costs.

The question whether an order of the court should express an appeal to be allowed or to be dismissed should, in his opinion, depend upon whether the appellant had or had not succeeded in obtaining an appeal, some substantive relief not obtained below or in obtaining the discharge of some substantive relief granted below. The result of the appeal was that neither of those things had been obtained.

In *Lake v Lake* (1855) P 336 it was held by the Court of Appeal that appeals lay against orders made, not against the reasons given for the making of the orders. That principle had, so far as he was aware, never been doubted: see also *Note 591/16 to Order 59* at p923 in *The Supreme Court Practice* 1997.

Since an appeal could not be brought against reasons but only against the order made, it seemed to follow that an appeal which failed to achieve any alteration in the order was an appeal which had failed notwithstanding that the appellant might have succeeded in undermining the reasons given by the trial judge.

In his opinion, the concurring judgments of Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Henry on this appeal ought to lead to an order that the appeal be dismissed. The order to be made, however, had to be the order they had prescribed. The appeal would be allowed.

Solicitors: Hewen & Co; Sinclair, Roche & Temperley.

Probity reference does not guarantee identity

Gold Coin Joalliers SA v United Bank of Kuwait

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Auld and Sir Patrick Russell
[Judgment October 15]

A bank providing accurate information by telephone as to the financial probity of one of its customers did not thereby assume a duty of care to the inquirer as to the true identity of the customer. A joint understanding that the customer, and not an impostor, was the person with whom the inquirer was doing business did not create a duty on the bank to certify or confirm his identity.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments allowing an appeal by the bank, United Bank of Kuwait plc, from the judgment of Mr Alan Tyrrell, QC, sitting as a

deputy High Court judge in March 1995, whereby he had ordered it to pay damages to the plaintiff, Gold Coin Joalliers SA, for negligent misrepresentation. The judge had found contributory negligence of 25 per cent by the plaintiff.

Mr Anthony Mann, QC and Mr Michael Panchen-Joyce for the bank; Mr Michael Pooles for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE AULD said that the plaintiff, of whom Mr Edmund Avakian was the sole shareholder and controlling director, dealt in watches and jewellery from offices in Geneva. The bank had an office in London at which Mr Faisal Al Mutawa, a long-standing customer, held an account.

The subject matter of the appeal was an alleged negligent mis-

representation by the bank to the plaintiff that a man with whom the plaintiff was about to, and did deal was Mr Al Mutawa, whereas the man was an impostor who defrauded the plaintiff.

In July 1993 the impostor had telephoned the bank, announcing himself as Mr Al Mutawa. He had said that he was arranging a deal and had asked for a bank reference to be given over the telephone to the plaintiff.

On the same day the impostor, still representing himself as Mr Al Mutawa, telephoned the plaintiff suggesting that it telephone the bank for the reference. The plaintiff had agreed.

The plaintiff was then told by the bank that Mr Al Mutawa had just telephoned the bank and that it was thus expecting the plaintiff's

call: it informed the plaintiff that Mr Al Mutawa was a respectable and trustworthy person and that he would not enter into any transaction that he could not fulfil.

That conversation satisfied the plaintiff who later handed watches worth US \$450,000 to the impostor who in purported payment handed the plaintiff a handwritten instruction to the bank to pay the plaintiff the \$450,000.

The bank refused to honour the instruction because, as it readily saw and later confirmed with Mr Al Mutawa, he had not given it.

The basis of the plaintiff's claim against the bank was not that the information given was negligent as a report about Mr Al Mutawa but that the bank negligently and mistakenly confirmed the plaintiff's belief that the man with

whom it was dealing was Mr Al Mutawa.

The judge had found the bank liable because, not having given a probity reference, it had assumed a duty of care to the plaintiff and had broken that duty in confirming the identity of the person with whom it was dealing as Mr Al Mutawa.

Thus the question was whether the bank in giving the reference assumed and breached a duty to the plaintiff to identify Mr Al Mutawa as the person with whom the plaintiff was dealing.

The judge had failed to direct his mind adequately to the two different types of duty under consideration and to consider what, if any, circumstances pointed to a clear assumption by the bank of a duty to the plaintiff, not to Mr Al Mutawa, as to identity, as distinct from financial probity: see per Lord Browne-Wilkinson in *White v Jones* (1995) 2 AC 201, 273; per Lord Pearce in *Hillier & Partners Ltd v Heller & Partners Ltd* (1994) 465, 539; and per Lord Bridge of Harwich in *Caparo Industries plc v Dickman* (1990) 2 AC 605, 620.

The bank's opening casual remark to the plaintiff could not amount to a representation that the person with whom the plaintiff was dealing was Mr Al Mutawa. The plaintiff's only request had been for a bank reference in respect of Mr Al Mutawa and there was no reason why the bank should have foreseen that the plaintiff might want information outside the normal scope of a bank reference.

It was undoubtedly their joint understanding that Mr Al Mutawa was the man with whom the plaintiff was dealing, but that did not create a duty on the bank to certify or confirm that fact or convert the bank's remarks into a representation as to identity on which it should have foreseen the plaintiff would rely.

The judge's finding on the issue as to duty of care should be reversed and the appeal allowed.

Lord Justice Nourse and Sir Patrick Russell agreed.

Solicitors: Wedlake Bell; Richards Butler.

observation of the appellants' flat over a period of four days police officers entered, searched and photographed and the appellants were arrested.

At the police station their solicitor, who considered that they were under interview owing to their drug withdrawal symptoms, advised them not to answer questions. However, the force medical examiner considered them fit for interview.

Neither made any comment to the questions put to them about incidents recorded in the police observation. At the trial the appellants gave evidence, each admitting to being a heroin addict but denying that heroin was ever supplied in the way or for the purpose alleged by the prosecution or at all.

They were cross-examined on their failure to mention certain important aspects of their defence at interview. The reason they gave for not doing so was the advice of their solicitor.

In summing up the judge directed the jury that it was a matter for them to decide whether any adverse inference should be drawn against the appellants from their failure to mention certain facts at interview.

On appeal, Mr Shaw criticised that direction in that, although it closely followed the current specimen direction suggested by the Judicial Studies Board, it did not go far enough.

Mr Shaw relied on a dictum of Lord Diplock in *Kwan Ping Hong v The Queen* (1979) AC 609, 615G; and the judgment of the Court of Appeal in *R v Cowan* in which Lord Taylor of Gossford, Lord

imposed by Judge Petre at Chelmsford Crown Court on May 24, 1996, on a plea of guilty to possessing a firearm without a certificate. He had also pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm when prohibited and possessing a class B drug for which concurrent prison terms of two years and three months respectively were imposed.

MR JUSTICE MOSES said that it was quite clear that Parliament in the 1994 Act took the view that

asked at interview and his explanations for his failure could be tested in cross-examination.

If defence counsel wished to submit that the judge should not invite the jury to consider drawing adverse inferences, in the ordinary way that submission should be made in the absence of the jury at the conclusion of the evidence.

If the accused gave as a reason for not answering questions that he had been advised by his solicitor not to do so, that advice did not, in their Lordships' judgment, amount to a waiver of privilege.

But equally that bare assertion was unlikely by itself to be regarded as a sufficient reason for not mentioning matters relevant to the defence.

So it would be necessary, if the accused wished to invite the court not to draw an adverse inference to go further and state the basis or reason for the advice.

Although the matter was not fully argued, it seemed to their Lordships that once that was done it might well amount to a waiver of privilege, so that the accused, or if his solicitor was also called, the solicitor, could be asked whether there were any other reasons for the advice and the nature of the advice given, so as to explore whether the advice might also have been given for tactical reasons.

It was probably desirable that the judge should warn counsel, or the accused, that the privilege might be taken to have been waived, if the accused gave evidence of the nature of the advice.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Kingston upon Thames.

sentences for firearms offences had been too low in the past.

Taking that into account, together with the views of Sir Tasker Watkins in *R v Ecclestone* (1995) 10 Cr App R (S) 9, 11 to the effect that the time had come for the authorities to be reviewed, it was their Lordships' opinion that previous cases were no longer to be considered as apt guidance as to what was an appropriate sentence in firearms cases.

MR JUSTICE MOSES said that it was quite clear that Parliament in the 1994 Act took the view that

When accused fails to answer questions

Regina v Condron (William)

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Mummery and Lord Justice Moses
[Judgment October 17]

The essential points recommended in *R v Cowan* (1994) QB 373 to be included in a judge's direction to the jury as to what inferences they could reasonably draw from the accused's failure to give evidence also applied where a jury was being reminded of the circumstances in which a proper inference might be drawn where the accused had failed to answer questions when interviewed.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment dismissing appeals by William Condron and Karen Condron against their convictions in November 1995 at Kingston upon Thames Crown Court (Judge Thomas and a jury) of being concerned in supplying a controlled Class A drug, diamorphine, to another and of possessing a controlled Class A drug with intent to supply to another for which William Condron was sentenced to three years imprisonment and Karen Condron to three years imprisonment on each count concurrently.

Mr Antony Shaw QC, who did not appear before, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant, Mr Edmund Lawson, QC, who did not appear below, and Mr Mark Seymour for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH, delivering the judgment of the court, said that after

observation of the appellants' flat over a period of four days police officers entered, searched and photographed and the appellants were arrested.

At the police station their solicitor, who considered that they were under interview owing to their drug withdrawal symptoms, advised them not to answer questions. However, the force medical examiner considered them fit for interview.

Neither made any comment to the questions put to them about incidents recorded in the police observation. At the trial the appellants gave evidence, each admitting to being a heroin addict but denying that heroin was ever supplied in the way or for the purpose alleged by the prosecution or at all.

They were cross-examined on their failure to mention certain important aspects of their defence at interview. The reason they gave for not doing so was the advice of their solicitor.

In summing up the judge directed the jury that it was a matter for them to decide whether any adverse inference should be drawn against the appellants from their failure to mention certain facts at interview.

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Mr Shaw relied on a dictum of Lord Diplock in *Kwan Ping Hong v The Queen* (1979) AC 609, 615G; and the judgment of the Court of Appeal in *R v Cowan* in which Lord Taylor of Gossford, Lord

asked at interview and his explanations for his failure could be tested in cross-examination.

If defence counsel wished to submit that the judge should not invite the jury to consider drawing adverse inferences, in the ordinary way that submission should be made in the absence of the jury at the conclusion of the evidence.

If the accused gave as a reason for not answering questions that he had been advised by his solicitor not to do so, that advice did not, in their Lordships' judgment, amount to a waiver of privilege.

But equally that bare assertion was unlikely by itself to be regarded as a sufficient reason for not mentioning matters relevant to the defence.

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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39	47.75	Agropur	379	...	30	20.00	Real Time	12.00	...	5	24	5.68
40	48.00	Agropur	379	...	30	20.00	Real Time	12.00	...	5	24	5.68
41	48.25	Agropur	379	...	30	20.00	Real Time	12.00	...	5	24	5.68
42	48.50	Agropur	379	...	30	20.00	Real Time	12.00	...	5	24	5.68
43	48.75	Agropur	379	...	30	20.00	Real Time	12.00	...	5	24	5.68
44	49.00	Agropur	379	...	30	20.00	Real Time	12.00	...	5	24	5.68
45	49.25	Agropur	379	...	30	20.00	Real Time	12.00	...	5	24	5.68
46	49.50	Agropur	379	...	30	20.00	Real Time	12.00	...	5	24	5.68
47	49.75	Agropur	379	...	30	20.00	Real Time	12.00	...	5	24	5.68
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71	55.75	Agropur	379	...	30	20.00	Real Time	12.00	...	5	24	5.68
72	56.00	Agropur	379	...	30	20.00	Real Time	12.00	...	5	24	5.68
73	56.25	Agropur	379	...	30	20.00	Real Time	12.00	...	5	24	5.68
74	56.50	Agropur	379	...	30	20.00	Real Time	12.00	...	5	24	5.68

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MARKETS

TODAY

Interims: Blacks Leisure, Capital Gearing Trust, London & Overseas Freighters, Shoprite Group, Telewest Communications Cable (Q3), UMECO.

Finals: Associated British Foods.

Economic statistics: UK provisional M0 figures for October, UK September housing starts and completions, US September construction spending, September industrial output for Japan.

TOMORROW

Interims: Anglian Water, British Airways, British Petroleum (Q3), Dairy Crest Group, Marks & Spencer, Mercury Asset Management, National Grid, Powerscreen International, Whitbread.

Finals: Bellway, Carlton Communications, Frederick Cooper, Creston Land & Estates, Lowland Investment Company, Stratagem.

Economic statistics: UK September industrial and manufacturing output, US presidential election, US September housing completions, Bundesbank calls for repos.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Charles Stanley Group, Johnson Group Clearers, Lumina, Westbury.

Finals: MMT Computing, Northern Venture Trust, UFF Group.

Economic statistics: UK October car registrations, UK Bank of England Inflation Report, Bundesbank awards repos.

THURSDAY

Interims: Boots, Cullen's Holdings, Hambro Insurance, Raymond Industrial, Somic, Stealey Industries, Warner Howard, Yates Brothers Wine Lodges.

Finals: J Bibby, Burton Group, Kwik Save Group, J Smart & Co (Contractors).

Economic statistics: Confederation of British Industry distributive trades survey for October, US weekly jobless claims, US non-farm productivity (Q3), US September consumer credit, Bundesbank council meeting.

FRIDAY

Interims: English National Investment, Skandia Insurance, Unilever (Q3).

Finals: None scheduled.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK



M&S aims to be top of the shops



John Hoerner, chief executive, is expected to report positive full-year results for Burton Group

MARKS & SPENCER: The jewel in the high street crown, as it is often described, aims to be the first to shine tomorrow in a week that sees several top retailers displaying their wares. The City is hoping for positive news from the group at the half-way stage, since the figures will be accompanied by a presentation for brokers, for the first time at this stage of proceedings.

The improvement in consumer confidence during the past year should be reflected in pre-tax profits growing from £387.1 million to between £443 million and £460 million. Earnings per share are expected to have grown by between 15 and 20 per cent, to about 11p. Sales during the first quarter were almost 9 per cent ahead, with M&S probably raising its share of the market.

Financial services are expected to show a solid improvement, and the performance of overseas stores is also expected to be better. Shareholders should be rewarded with a 4p increase in the dividend to 3.5p.

BURTON GROUP: There should be a similar message from Burton Group, whose chief executive is John Hoerner, when it reports full-year figures on Thursday. The estimate for pre-tax profits ranges from £145 million to £150 million, compared with £93.1 million last time.

A trading statement in July indicated sales growth of more than 10 per cent, with gross margins up by about 2 percentage points. Little is likely to have happened to spoil that picture.

Earnings should be up by 50 per cent, to 7.7p a share, although expansion plans, which include acquisitions, may serve to slow overall progress. Margins have continued to improve throughout the year. A 4p rise in the net dividend to 2.7p is forecast.

BOOTS: The prospect of an end to price controls on over-the-counter drug sales has overshadowed the group in recent weeks, but should do nothing to detract from a bumper set of half-year figures on Thursday. These are expected to reveal pre-tax profits of between £230 million and £235

million, compared with £217.9 million last time.

First-quarter sales at its chemist shops were 6.6 per cent higher on the back of a strong performance by own-label goods. The improved housing market will have been good news for the company's Do It All and AG Stanley stores. However, the buyback of 51.36 million shares at 580p will have held back profits, as will the absorption of 100 per cent of the Do It All losses.

BRITISH PETROLEUM: The strength of crude oil prices on

world markets should be fully reflected in third-quarter figures tomorrow, with net income up from £596 million to between £630 million and £636 million. This boost to upstream activities should more than compensate for any decline downstream, such as refining and chemical production. Nevertheless, earnings are unlikely to show the sort of growth achieved in the second quarter because of a squeeze on refining margins caused by the rapid rise in the price of oil and the lag in realising higher prices for Alaskan oil production.

UNILEVER: Growing one-off charges are expected to take the gloss off third-quarter performance when the Anglo-Dutch group reports on Friday. Pre-tax profits up from £786 million to between £804 million and £820 million are forecast after an increase in "exceptional" charges of £33 million to £50 million, reflecting the acquisition of Diversy. Earnings should have kept pace, with a rise of 2 per cent to 26.5p per share.

ANGLIAN WATER: Half-year figures tomorrow are unlikely to

match last week's performance from Thames. Pre-tax profits are expected to be up about £4 million at £130 million, although some brokers forecast a slight downturn. As with all water companies, interest will be focused on the dividend, which should be up by about 18 per cent, at 10.5p net. The figures will have been bolstered by an increase in new connections, but held back by the cost of financing last year's share buyback.

ABF: Brokers will be looking for evidence of a slowdown when Associated British Foods publishes full-year figures this morning. Brokers are looking for an 11 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to about £415 million, with earnings growing 8 per cent, to 30p per share. Retail operations in Britain and Ireland will provide the main boost to profits, with British Sugar suffering from a rundown in stocks of sugar. Once again, the figure will be boosted by returns on cash, which are thought to have risen from £601 million to £735 million.

WHITBREAD: Half-year figures tomorrow will be bolstered by recent acquisitions, including David Lloyd and Marriott, the hotel chain. Pre-tax profit estimates range from £170 million to £173 million, compared with £156 million last time. The contribution from the new acquisitions is expected to be about £17 million, helping to offset any slowdown on the restaurant and leisure side after last year's strong growth.

Profits from brewing and pubs are expected to be up on last year in spite of continuing competition from duty-free "booze cruises". The net payout is likely to grow by 8 per cent, to 6.2p.

NATIONAL GRID: Interim figures out tomorrow will be the first since the group accepted the tough pricing policy of RPI minus 4 per cent proposed by the regulator after the company's stock market debut. Pre-tax profits are expected to be up from £278.9 million to £304 million, with the group having already forecast a 9 per cent increase in the payout to 4.45p per share.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Inflation in the spotlight

The Bank of England's quarterly *Inflation Report* will come under careful scrutiny when it is published on Wednesday, as the City hunts for any evidence that the Bank wants further base rate increases. Economists are divided on whether the Bank believes last week's quarter-point rise is sufficient tightening. However, combined with the recent rise in sterling, the Chancellor's move may have done just enough to ease the Bank's pressure for rate increases.

The September figures for industrial production and manufacturing output, to be published on Tuesday, are the most important domestic statistics. Friday's increase in the purchasing managers index backed evidence from other data, such as the CBI quarterly industrial trends survey, which have shown output picking up in recent months. MMS International expects this to be reflected in the official figures, after the output fell in August, with manufacturing output expected to show a 0.7 per cent monthly increase, taking annual growth to 0.4 per cent.

The CBI distributive trades survey, to be released on Wednesday, is likely to show continued growth in consumer spending. Figures for M0, the measure of narrow money supply, will be published today. MMS predicts a rise in the annual rate from 7 per cent to 7.3 per cent for October.

The US scene will be dominated by tomorrow's elections, with the markets' biggest concern being the Federal Reserve Bank's reaction if the Democrats win back Congress. Analysts predict that the Fed could quickly raise rates if it believes the Democrats are about to loosen fiscal policy.

In Germany, the Bundesbank Council is to meet on Thursday, but policy changes are not expected. On Monday, German manufacturing output figures for September are expected to show strong growth of 0.3 per cent. However, an expected rise in the jobless figures should ease worries on inflation.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy British Aerospace, Mayflower, Gearhouse; Hold Creston Land. The Observer: Sell Stakis. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Chemring; Sell J Sainsbury, British Biotech. The Mail on Sunday: Buy Alca; Sell Verity, Bellway. The Express: Buy DCS Group, Parity. Independent on Sunday: Buy Farepak; Hold Unilever. Sunday Business: Buy British Petroleum; Sell Boots.

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Steel unions in US-style drive for recognition

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

LEADERS of Britain's steelworkers will today unveil a new, American-style campaign to persuade private steel companies to recognise trade unions in advance of the possible election of a Labour Government.

Steel unions will use some American techniques for the first time in Britain. They will also draw on successful campaigns by UK trade unions to persuade British companies to introduce European-style works councils, in spite of the Government's opt-out from the European social charter.

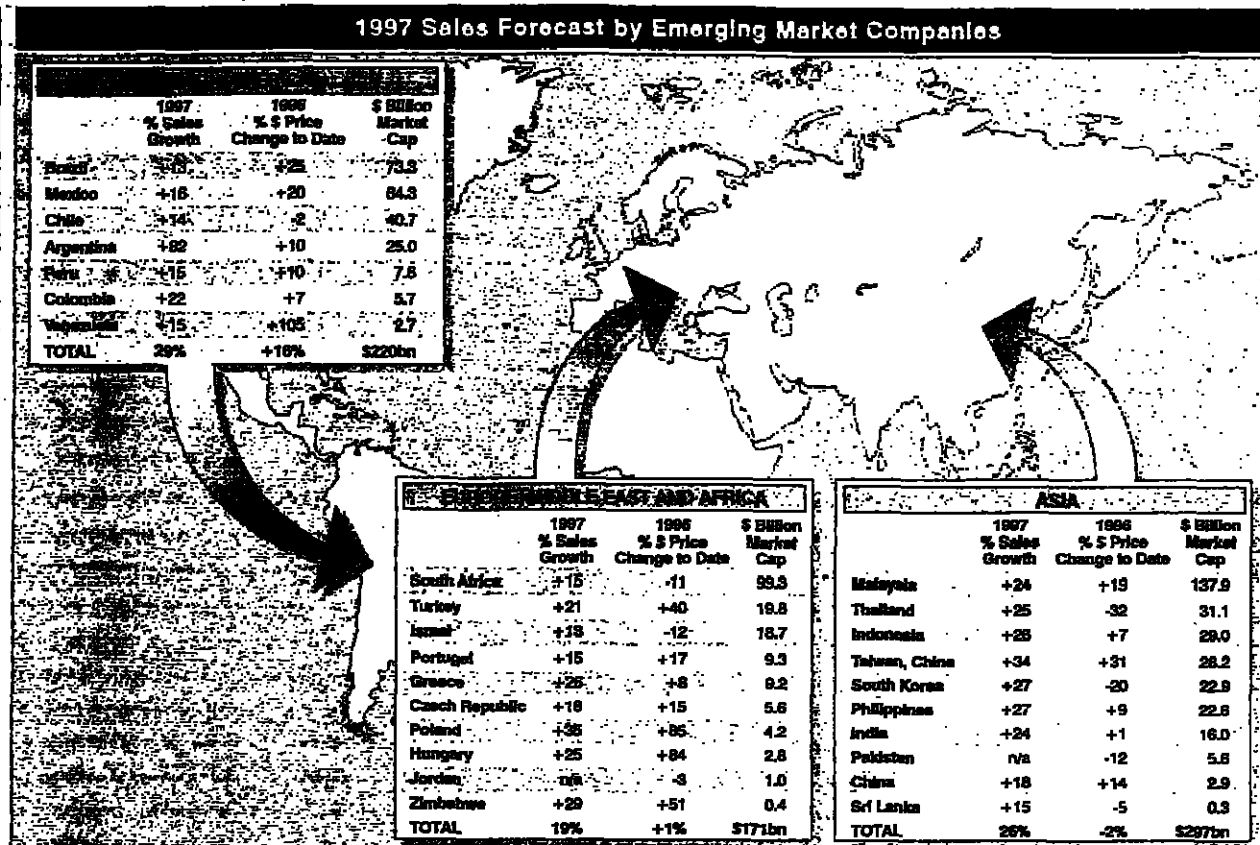
Leaders of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) and the AEEU engineering union will today open their campaign when they unveil huge billboard posters directly outside a steel company which has derecognised the unions.

American unions have successfully used such direct methods over the past two or three years in the US, but the move at Co-Steel in Sheerness in Kent today is believed to be the first time such forms of so-called corporate campaigning have been used in the UK, aimed at "shaming" the company into changing its policy.

In their new campaign, the unions will argue explicitly that companies will be compelled by a new Labour Government to recognise a trade union where there is a majority workforce support — so they should accept that, recognise unions now and work in partnership with them. The unions are linking the move directly to the campaign on works councils.

As well as Co-Steel, the unions' first targets will be Johnson Matthey in north London, followed by Albion Press Metals, part of the German Thyssen group. US unions will join today's campaign, and the steel unions are seeking help from the giant IG Metall German union over Alcoa.

Keith Brookman, ISTC general secretary, thinks the time is now ripe for the union's nationwide initiative. He says: "Employers know the day is coming when they will no longer be able to deny unions recognition. Employees realise more than ever that they need the strength of a union around them. Public perception of unions has improved dramatically."



Gossip 'drives new markets'

By Martin Waller

THE biggest survey yet of emerging stock markets around the world confirms what many have long suspected — that new markets are driven more by speculation, rumour and gossip than by research and fundamentals.

However, the study, to be published tomorrow and based on the views of companies making up more than half the world's emerging markets, does suggest in which areas potential growth has yet to be recognised by the local exchange.

Tempest, a City management consultancy to the securities industry, sought opinions on the best stockbro-

kers and fund managers from 276 companies, which between them make up 52 per cent of the \$688 billion at which global emerging markets are capitalised.

Tempest also sought the fund managers' views on local brokers and on the companies themselves. Stephen Parker, a director of Tempest, said that fund managers' views on emerging markets fell into two camps, those taking a spread of investments almost at random and those trying to research qualitative data about individual companies.

"There's this massive growth on emerging markets, and this massive knowledge problem," he said. "It's all about company contact — if you don't have that, you just don't understand what's going on."

Tempest tracked the movements last year on the markets throughout the world and asked the companies in them what they expected their turnover growth to be this year. Some countries showed a sharp mismatch. In some areas, local markets had lagged behind even though growth in the future was expected to be explosive.

The map shows that in countries such as Venezuela — popular with fund managers seeking growth markets — share prices outperformed significantly last year. By contrast, in Chile and Colombia, and in Indonesia, India and the Philippines, potential growth expected by local industry has not been matched by rises on local exchanges.

Tempest spoke to fund managers controlling more than half the estimated \$135 billion of emerging markets' capitalisation that is "free float" money, not locked away in government, family or friendly bank ownership. The survey found a lack of reliable and meaningful data available — Mr Parker's "knowledge problem" — which left share prices to be driven by stories and speculation rather than by fundamentals.

Ten-year wait for a phone

By Clare Stewart

HOUSEHOLDERS in Uzbekistan face an average wait of ten years for a home telephone line and only 40 per cent of town-dwelling Albanians have a piped water supply, according to a new report by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The EBRD's 1996 Transition Report finds that, seven years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, many former Communist countries have made con-

siderable progress in opening up trade and privatising small enterprises. However, Nicholas Stern, EBRD chief economist, says: "Some of the more difficult tasks... such as enterprise restructuring, the rehabilitation and rebuilding of infrastructure, and the building of strong financial and legal institutions, have a long way to go."

The report highlights advances made over the past year by Romania, Albania and many parts of the CIS in privatising large enterprises.

In addition, countries such as Estonia and the Czech Republic have begun to privatise major utilities and transport. Hungary is singled out for its progress in utility privatisation and in introducing "private" finance in road-building.

The EBRD notes weakness in the financial sector across Eastern Europe and the CIS.

Lloyd's syndicates 'to face crippling taxes'

LLOYD'S OF LONDON syndicates face crippling Inland Revenue bills as they start to make profits after years of heavy losses, it has been claimed. Corporate members of syndicates are required to pay corporation tax on profits they distribute to investors. Colin Czapiewski, a partner with Lane Clarke and Peacock, the consulting actuary, said that as profits improve, syndicates will come under pressure from the Revenue to pass on more of the profits, rather than keeping them in the reserves in case of future losses. He claims that as a consequence they will also have to pay more tax.

Mr Czapiewski said: "Hundreds of syndicates could be affected and the Revenue could net millions of pounds, depending on how good a year it has been for Lloyd's. They will be encouraged to run down the reserves to satisfy the Revenue. I do not believe it is fair for syndicates to be penalised for holding back profits in case of unforeseen losses in the future. That is a piece of sound business practice." A spokeswoman for the Inland Revenue said: "We cannot speculate on the level of corporation tax syndicates will be liable for in coming years."

Boom and bust of euro

BRITAIN'S entry into a European currency could cause a short-term boom followed swiftly by a recession or a massive tax rise to avoid overheating, according to Oxford Economic Forecasting. The boom would be triggered by interest rates falling to continental levels, producing accelerating inflation and a loss of competitiveness that could not be relieved by devaluation. On Wednesday, the European Commission is expected to produce forecasts suggesting that key countries will, after all, qualify for the single currency in 1997 by meeting the Maastricht tests.

Britain lags behind

LEADING companies in The Netherlands and Germany are well ahead of their British counterparts in preparing for a European currency and have a more realistic idea of the cost, according to a survey for CMG, the computer software group. In a sample of 200, equally split, four out of five finance directors in the UK supported sterling's absorption, but fewer than one in ten thought this would involve big changes in their information technology, against more than half in Germany and The Netherlands.

Managers lack key skills

BRITAIN'S small business managers acknowledge today that they lack a range of key business skills. A report by the Institute of Management, representing 73,000 managers and 700 firms, produced with the University of Cambridge, shows that managers in small firms are aware that they lack important skills and need considerable training. Some 56 per cent of managers say they lack strategy and planning skills; 54 per cent lack skills in training, development, marketing and sales; and half say they have insufficient leadership skills.

Pay deals hold steady

PAY settlements are remaining level, with more than nine out of ten recent deals giving inflation-plus rises, according to a new analysis of wage deals by Incomes Data Services, the independent pay research company. In its latest report, IDS says that two thirds of all pay deals in the last four months have been between 3 per cent and 4 per cent, although IDS also casts doubt on ideas of growing labour market flexibility, suggesting that there is a great deal more stable, permanent employment in the economy than some studies suggest.

New CWS chief plans merger talks with rival

By Sarah Cunningham

GRAHAM MELMOTH, who today takes over as head of CWS, Europe's biggest Co-operative retailer, plans to relaunch talks aimed at a merger with the Co-operative Retail Society (CRS), its biggest rival within the British movement.

The last efforts to bring the two sides together broke down in 1994. Mr Melmuth, 58, who has worked for CWS for 21 years, said: "If anyone can bring CWS and CRS together it is me." But he cautioned that it is something that "is likely to happen in the medium rather than the short term."

Once Britain's leading food retailers, the Co-ops have been overtaken by J Sainsbury, Tesco, Sainsbury and Asda and have lost market share to discount supermarket chains. Many Co-ops are now found



Graham Melmuth says he can unite the two Co-op groups

off the beaten track, in small towns and villages. They remain strong in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

CWS owns 700 food shops, and, through buying and marketing agreements, effectively controls nearly two thirds of

the country's Co-ops. CRS controls a further 20 per cent. CWS also has interests in funerals, milk processing and distribution, travel, farming and garages. The Co-operative Bank and CIS insurance company are wholly owned subsidiaries.

Mr Melmuth, who replaces David Skinner, 65, who is retiring, said the board of CWS was looking at possibilities of closer links between the two financial services companies, but said a full merger of the bank and insurer was unlikely.

Vote of approval for share options

Executive share options are the best way to link boardroom rewards with company performance, a team of economists has concluded. Rejecting the Greenbury committee's clampdown on options, Brian Main, Trevor Buck and Alistair Bruce, writing in the latest issue of the *Economic Journal*, argue that options should replace more of existing basic pay and bonuses. They say that many of the long-term incentive plans now being introduced with the blessing of the Greenbury report are more obscure than the share option plans they replace.

Tax relief plea

The Government's tax exemption for workplace nurseries has failed in its objective of improving childcare for working parents, a labour market pressure group says today. The Campaign for Tax Relief and Childcare says that the tax exemption for workplace nurseries has led to no net increase in childcare provision, and it calls on Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to extend the exemption to all forms of employer-funded childcare, subject to a weekly limit of £42 per employee.

Biomedica plan

Oxford Biomedica today publishes the pathfinder prospectus for its £5 million capital-raising and flotation on the Alternative Investment Market, due in a month's time. The gene therapy specialist has a licence agreement with Cancer Research Campaign Technology for access to anti-cancer gene therapies and technologies from research and has acquired six patent applications from Oxford University.

London boost

London's economy should grow by 4.6 per cent this year, more than twice the expected rate for the UK as a whole, according to projections from the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Unemployment is forecast to fall below 10 per cent for the first time since 1992.

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US dollar 1.6375 (+0.0337)
German mark 2.4836 (+0.0397)
Exchange index 90.9 (+1.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share 2795.0 (-15.9)
FTSE 100 3848.5 (-73.9)
New York Dow Jones 6012.93 (+5.91)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 20633.06 (-106.91)

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THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

Lyons' share for students

STUART LYONS has shown an unexpected poetic streak. The chairman and chief executive of Royal Doulton has translated into English all 103 of Horace's odes, now published by Staffordshire University Press. Just down the road from Doulton, Lyons has included his own scholarly introduction and notes. *The Fleeting Years: Odes of Horace from the Augustan Age of Rome* is the first book from the Cambridge scholar. Lyons is donating the royalties to the disabled students' fund at Staffordshire University. "That's why I am being a little less than generous in free issues," he says.

BELETED congratulations to the *Body Shop*, winners of the PR Week Best International Campaign Award. The *Roddick* team must be particularly pleased with itself as this award was sponsored by *Shandwick*, the PR house that looks after Shell, whose Nigerian activities have attracted so much *Roddick* ire.

Nick's knack

WH SMITH is playing Cupid in the love life of *Only Fools and Horses* actor Nicholas Lyndhurst. Since he starred in the company's latest TV advertisement, he has been hounded by adoring male fans, smitten by his character, teenager Sacha Smith. Bill Cockburn, chief executive of WH Smith, is delighted that viewers are swamping the actor with love letters.

WORD has it that Helen Bowden, former presenter of *Woman's Hour* and editor of *newscurrent* affairs at BBC Radio North, is to step into a newly created role as head of BBC Business. Bowden will have both radio and TV under her control.

Silly aisles

GET OUT those pension books, put on those glad rags, and boogie on down to your local Asda. Today and Wednesday the supermarket chain is offering customers over the age of 60 a 10 per cent discount on their shopping bill. Between 9am and 11am, a free cuppa and an old-fashioned knees-up will also be thrown in. Music of the Twenties and dance bands of the Forties will serenade customers down the aisles as they go dewy eyed over the tinned Spam and mushy peas.

Team talk

THE Broomfield League kicks off at Broadgate today, with more than 100 firms set to play about 1,000 matches. Teams, however, are also competing for the most outrageous name. Hot contenders include The Cash Cows (Lehman's), Suffice With Talent (NatWest), Mad Kenny's All Night Bankers (SBC Warburg) and The Masterful Mental Maple Leaves (Royal Bank of Canada).

Bluff called

EMPLOYEES at Winterflood Securities watched in amazement as managing director Brian Winterflood's legendary tan turned an unnatural shade of red. While showing off his bear pit to a visiting company chairman, he was keen to point out a notice on a nearby desk: "If the phone rings twice, then this is a Mickey Mouse outfit." His guest chided him, so Winterflood suggested that he phone up one of his minions: it rang and rang, but was never answered. Furious, Winterflood stormed onto the trading floor in search of the culprit. "But you told us on no account to answer internal calls," called a sheepish voice.

MORAG PRESTON

BT JOINS THE GIANTS

TOP 10 TELECOMS COMPANIES: WHERE BT/MCI WOULD STAND

Company	Country	Annual sales \$bn*
NTT	JAPAN	81.9
AT&T	US	49.0
DEUTSCHE TELEKOM	GERMANY	46.1
BT/MCI	UK/US	42.0
FRANCE TELECOM	FRANCE	30.1
BELL ATLANTIC/NYNEX	US	26.8
SBC/PACIFIC TELESIS	US	21.7
GTE	US	20.0
TELECOM ITALIA	ITALY	18.0
BELLSOUTH	US	17.9

BERT ROBERTS
MCI'S CHAIRMAN

CONCERT

SIR IAIN VALLANCE
BT'S CHAIRMAN*1995 figures
Source: Fortune

BT takes a gamble on buccaneering MCI

British Telecom might end up locked in a price war with powerful competitors, says Carl Mortished

When a chief executive talks global, you can bet that his real concerns are more parochial. British Telecom and MCI formally launched their merger proposal yesterday and the terms of the deal certainly make impressive reading. The talk from the two companies was all about world leadership, a communications power house and global reach; the largest ever transatlantic merger will send analysts and commentators reaching for superlatives.

They might be better off asking questions about the telecoms market in Cleveland, Ohio, Leicester in Britain, or Hanover in Germany. It is there that the changes are occurring. Long-distance and international telephone traffic is a tradable commodity, but in many areas local phone services are still highly monopolistic. Deregulation of telecommunications is sending telecoms and media organisations scurrying to form alliances to better sell myriad packaged phone, cable TV and information services to households and businesses in the most affluent markets of North America and north-western Europe.

BT dominates the UK telephony market. Mercury, its main rival, has not yet mounted a significant threat to BT's hegemony. MCI, however, represents much more than a link with the second largest American long-distance service provider. It is a huge gamble on MCI's chance of taking over a large piece of the \$100 billion local US phone market.

BT's link with MCI has a certain irony. Set up in 1968 as Microwave Communications

Inc., the company has a history of making strategic assaults on stodgy monopolies. From a tiny beginning building microwave towers linking American cities, the company ended up in an anti-trust court battle with AT&T that led in 1984 to the break-up of Ma Bell into seven local Bells plus AT&T.

Since then, the long-distance market has become a triopoly of AT&T, still on top, with MCI and Sprint in second and third position. But, this year, the US phone market is again in turmoil with the passing of the Federal Telecommunications Act. The measure permits long-distance operators to enter local markets and, under certain conditions, local players can sell long-distance services and even overseas calls.

The door is open for a free-for-all with the buccaneering MCI and Sprint attempting to muscle in on the 46 per cent gross margins available in the \$100 billion local market. Sir Iain Vallance, BT's chairman may now be enjoying a frisson of excitement at the thought of playing the pirate after years suffering in silence while Mercury and the American cable TV operators stole BT's business in Britain.

Yes, this could be an expensive venture and BT might end up locked in a price war with more powerful competitors than Mercury. The problem with local phone networks is that, unlike long-distance and international networks, they generally lack much spare capacity. Small long-distance

service providers are able to make a profit buying capacity from the big three at discounts of up to 40 per cent.

But the Baby Bells will argue that limited local capacity does not justify cheap access to interlopers and therefore the long-distance companies will have to work hard in cutting costs if they are to make a profit from second-hand local network traffic.

The option of building a new network is expensive — it would cost billions of dollars and could take three to four years to lay the foundations to reach a large market. There are other options: wireless telephony and alliances with cable companies.

AT&T has an important advantage in the former with its \$12 billion acquisition of McCaw Cellular in 1994, while Sprint is believed to be focusing on cable. Major cities are served by a host of cable companies, which leaves a long-distance operator with no means of accessing the market except via the Baby Bell.

MCI is spending heavily on exchanges to build a local loop. It has invested \$1 billion to date, serving 13 cities, which will rise to 25 by the end of the year. A further \$1 billion of investment will bring its local access to 40 cities next year. But Gerald Taylor, president and chief operating officer of MCI, reckons the benefits will be large from getting a finger in the local pie. He points out

that currently 46 cents in every dollar of revenue goes to the Bell operating companies.

"Last year, the long-distance industry paid \$22 billion to the Bells which originated or terminated in their networks."

But the Baby Bells are not crying. In April, Atlantic Bell announced a \$22 billion merger with Nynex, creating Bell Atlantic, a pool of 25 million customers accounting for 30 per cent of the country's wealth. Atlantic Bell will be kept to tap the long-distance potential of their customer base from which a third of America's overseas phone calls originate. Today there are still constraints on how far Baby Bells can develop long-distance traffic, but the intent of new US law is for competition to grow.

This suggests a price war could be looming on local and national traffic, one that would make BT's domestic headaches look trivial.

BT is not a stranger to all this. The British company bankrolled MCI's ambitions as far back as 1994, then subscribing for 20 per cent of MCI's shares at a cost of \$4.2 billion and establishing a joint venture called Concert Communications Services. Since then, MCI has branched out into news media and entertainment, buying a stake in The News Corporation, the owner of *The Times*. Further investments by MCI include a \$1 billion investment in computing and communications technologies and a tie-up with Microsoft to develop Internet

services. Such investments are likely to continue or even accelerate; the battle for customers in the US market is focusing on how to offer a bundle of services to the phone users. Typically, the deal will be local and long-distance traffic, mobile phone and Internet access. Much the same will apply in Britain where BT at last faces cross-the-board competition from Mercury and three cable companies.

BT is obviously paying a premium to MCI although yesterday analysts were undecided how to value it exactly. MCI's earnings are growing at 12 per cent. Add to that costs savings and BT's rate of growth could double to 10 per cent while earnings dilution from the new shares should not be great. For BT, this deal would put a positive seal on a trying year that saw its planned merger with C&W scuppered. After that, the company saw its continental European ambitions effectively torn apart when RWE, its potential German partner, defected to C&W.

For BT, it is a gamble, but it should know something about competing in local markets. Yet BT investors may wonder what MCI is risking in this deal. In return for loss of control, MCI investors receive almost a third more for their shares than the market price, but they also get BT's cash flow thrown in for free. That means promises of more dividend and share buybacks and backing for a huge investment in local telephony. That sounds like a good deal for MCI; whether it is good for BT will take years to prove, whatever its share price does today.

Rate rise was a welcome stitch in time

After last week's rate rise, markets have built in a big premium for UK interest rate risks over the next couple of years. Interest rate futures project that UK three-month rates will rise sharply next year and, from late 1997 onwards, will be the highest in the G7. The UK-German five-year spread is back to highs seen in the 1994 market debacle. Markets fear that the economy is repeating its historical tendency to volatile growth and interest rate cycles.

This risk premium is too high. The UK economy's volatility has declined significantly in recent years. Inflation has been low and stable base rates have oscillated around 6 per cent. The key to stability has been the authorities' willingness to hike rates earlier. Last week's move continues

this pattern. It is a stitch in time that will help to cap the eventual rate ceiling, not a warning sign.

Against a backdrop of low inflation, a rising pound and tight fiscal policy, rates of 6.5 or 6.75 per cent next year should be enough to slow growth and keep inflation low. As the risk premium at the short end slims, the ten-year gilt-bund spread should return to the low end of this year's 1.4 to 1.9 per cent range.

The economic backdrop does not suggest that UK rates need to rise much more sharply than the external norm. True, the UK economy is accelerating, but so are other European countries. Policy has been eased more sharply there over the past year. OECD leading indicators and business surveys have turned up across the Continent. Manufacturing out-

GILT-EDGED

put growth is stronger in Germany than in the UK.

UK inflation prospects are similar to the G7 norm. Nominal GDP is growing at about the same rate as in the US, and below the 5 per cent rate that the Bank of England thinks consistent with the inflation target. The OECD and the IMF estimate the UK output gap at around 2 per cent, about the European average. Broad money growth in the UK and Germany has been similar in the past year and, on average, over the past four.

Underlying inflation is being boosted by the oil price spike and higher import costs after last year's drop in the pound, but these external shocks are past their worst.

Sterling's surge will help to cut inflation to the EU norm in 1997. The current account poses little threat.

UK fiscal trends are also similar to the European norm. On baseline plans for public spending, a neutral Budget will imply fiscal tightening of 0.75 per cent of GDP next year, near the EU average. Next year's UK budget deficit should be similar as a share of GDP to France and Germany.

The idea that the rate hike will be offset by a loose Budget looks wrong. Unsustainable tax-cutting would generate little political gain because voters would fear that, as in 1992, taxes will rise again after the election. I suspect the Budget will be broadly neutral.

Finally, the UK's political risks are no greater than those

facing other European countries. Opinion polls suggest that Labour will win the election with a working majority. A Labour government probably would stay out of the first wave of EMU. However, policy will aim to hit the convergence criteria to maintain the choice of joining EMU in 2001 or 2002. Those countries that join EMU at the start will probably face doubts among investors about monetary policy and whether fiscal consolidation will last.

If the UK does face persistent market pressure and a significant rise in the spread for short- and long-term rates against the EMU bloc, political pressure would grow for EMU entry or an independent Bank of England.

MICHAEL SAUNDERS
Salomon Brothers

RADIO CHOICE

Bequests to the nation

The Heritage Quiz, Radio 4, 12.25pm.

I welcome the return of this good-natured testing ground of knowledge about our cultural heritage. The four contestants only occasionally sound self-indulgent. They are Christopher Cook, Philippa Gregory, Janet Suzman and Martin Wainwright, and their chairperson is Sue MagGregor who is uncommonly generous with their helpful clues. She is uncommonly patient, too, allowing the players too much time to identify such national treasures as Warwick Castle which I got in five minutes flat. As well as questions about fictional pubs and book illustrators, there's a nostalgia corner. I share Cook's regret at not having been present at the world premiere in 1945 of Britten's *Peter Grimes*.

The Monday Play: *Bleat*, Radio 4, 7.45pm.

Brick by rough brick, reinforced with steel, whenever it shows signs of collapsing into crude melodrama, Graham White has constructed a play in which rural passions always threaten to erupt in violence and, ultimately, do precisely that. The setting is a farm. The characters: a bullying father (*Donald Sumpter*), two squabbling sons (*Philip Kingston*, *Martin Hancock*) and the two women sucked into their turbulent lives (*Maudie Ziegler*, *Emma Owen-Smith*). On stage, the play is hailed as working-class naturalism in the Lawrence mold. I wouldn't go that far, but the characters' veins are certainly bubbling with hot blood.

Peter Daville

RADIO 4

6.30am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo
12.00 Lisa Farnson with Simply Red's
Mick Huckniss 2.00 Nelly Campbell
4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session
10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Clare
Shuggers, including at 12.15am The Not
4.00 Clive Winters, with the Easy
Breakfast Show, including Good
Night/Good Morning

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up
to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy
Young 1.00pm Debbie Rowe 3.00 Ed
Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert
Gregg 7.30 Malcolm Laycock with
Dance Band Days 8.30 Big Band
Special 10.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00
Melly on Monday: Jools Holland.
George Melly hosts a jazz chat show
(1/8) 10.30 The Jamiesons 12.05am
Steve Madden 3.00 Alan Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl at 5.45
Wake Up to money 6.00 The Breakfast
Programme incl at 6.55, 7.55 racing
Simons 8.55 The Macquarie, with Clive
Madill, incl at 10.35 News from Europe
12.00 Midday with Mark, incl at 12.35pm
Moneycheck 2.05 Racecast on Five 4.00
Nationwide, incl at 5.45 Entertainment
News 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.20
Sports Bulletin 7.35 Football Legends.
Featuring Lewis Reilly of Hibs and
Scotland 8.00 The Sunday Match
Report 9.00 Country City 10.05 News Talk
11.00 Night Extra 12.05am The Other
Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Early Breakfast 7.00 Paul Ross
8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Arne
Burn 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00
Drivetime, with Peter Dinkley 7.00 Muz
Dee's Sportszone 10.00 James White
1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, includes Correll
(Trio Sonnets in F, Op 1 No 1);
Mozart (Clarinet Concerto in A
K622); Elgar (String
Quartet in E minor, Op 83)
9.00 Morning Collection.
Catharina Young continues her
survey of Debussy piano
music.
10.00 Musical Encounters.
Includes: Gershwin (An
American in Paris); Liszt
(Three-Page Sonata);
Copland (Piano Variations);
12.00 Composer of the Week:
Percy Grainger.
1.00pm News; BBC Lunchtime
Concert. Live from St John's,
Smith Square. Nobuko Imai,
viola, Roland Pennington, piano.
Mendelssohn (Sonata in A
minor); Takemitsu (A Bird
Came Down the Walk)
2.00 The BBC Orchestra, BBC
National Orchestra of Wales,
conductor Tadaaki Otaka,
Oliver Cheshire, violin; Wagner
(Overture: Tannhauser);
Beethoven (Violin Concerto in
D); Schubert (Symphony No 5)
3.45 Voices (1)
4.30 The Jazzbit: Violin (5/6)
5.00 The Music Machine
5.15 In Tune. Anthony Brown talks
to American conductor
Richard Pittman about his
American Independent
festival concert

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW)
6.00 News Briefing 6.10
Farming Today 6.25 Prayer
for the Day 6.30 Today 7.45
Thought for the Day 8.40
Who Goes Home 8.58
Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week
10.00 News; The Seven
Deadly Virtues (4/7)
10.00 Daily Service; On
This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30
Money Box; Live: 0171-560
4444
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm The Heritage Quiz. See
Choice 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World At One
1.40 The Archers (1/15)
Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Hand in Glove, with
Stephen Mulrine (3/3)
3.00 The Afternoon Shift
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope.
Lynne Walker sees Shobana
Jeyasingh's latest dance and
reads two books on travel
4.45 Short Story: The Breeder,
By Patricia Highsmith. A
wickedly satirical look at
motherhood and marriage (1)
6.00 PM 5.50 Shipping 6.55
Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30
News Quiz (1)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.2. RADIO 2. FM 89.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.0. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 683. 900. WORLD SERVICE. MW 646. LW 188 (12.45-6.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.6. MW 1197. 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053. 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dean, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thompson, Jane Gregory and John Montanaro.

LOOK BACK
IN ANGORA
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
10PM.



BOB MILLS' MUSICAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY. WATCH 25 YEARS OF BAD HAIR, STRANGE SHIRTS AND GREAT MUSIC VIDEOS.

available via cable and satellite

Rhodes rage? No, but I'm glad it's finished

According to *Horizon* on Saturday night, television is dead, obsolete, kaput. It's a point of view that, for the moment, is still debatable but one more week of *Rhodes* (BBC1) and who knows? However, however, *Rhodes* the colossus has landed. "Turn me over, Jack," wheezed the terrible old bore (not to be confused with the terrible old Boers who by comparison were interminable number of young men who have made keeping up so difficult over the past eight weeks, *Rhodes* promptly expired. To my shame, I let out a little cheer. "What were his last words?" asked one of the neatly assembled crowd outside the seaside cottage. Dr Jameson had not where he was today without knowing that "turn me over, Jack" was not exactly the stuff of history, so made

something up. "So much to do, so little time." Thank goodness he never got the chance to finish the job. The clever thing for a critic to do at this juncture would be to adopt the contrarian view and loudly acclaim *Rhodes* as a much misunderstood masterpiece. Believe me, I have thought about it but... no. Any drama dependent on an incomprehensible Russian princess to explain the plot deserves everything it gets and what it gets from the view is the view that *Rhodes* was a misconceived and ill-executed nonsense. True, it did have one or two saving graces. I have only to hear Alan Parker's music to be filled with a heartfelt desire to ford the Limpopo and some of the wood-work was magnificent — huge polished panels of African hardwood that adorned so many of the interiors. Ecologically very unsound, I realise, but oh so beautiful.

There are lessons to be learnt for the BBC, amid the wreckage of its Sunday night schedule. The first is that period drama works best when there are girls in it. Left to their own devices, boys only get themselves into trouble — starting wars, inventing apartheid, that sort of thing. The second is never make a drama that requires the viewer to keep an out-of-date atlas and a history book to them to follow what is going on. And the third is that racism, and particularly British imperial racism, makes for very uncomfortable Sunday night viewing. It happened, of course, but dressing it up as drama gave us the perfect opportunity to choose whether we cared to be reminded of the fact. In our millions — and surely to nobody's great surprise — we

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

chose not to. "What have you done, *Rhodes*?" thundered Merriman, one of several characters destined to be prime minister, according to a rather curious postscript. Answer: made ITV very happy. But not for long, according to the prophets of doom canvassed by producer Andrew Chitty for TV is Dead. Long Live TV (BBC2, Saturday, a *Horizon* special to mark the 50th anniversary of television.

I had rather hoped that this was the programme that would explain about digital, widescreen formats, high definition — and all those other technical things that people expect television critics to know about. But disappointingly from a purely selfish point of view it turned out to be about how television would be replaced by the Internet. It seems not only do we all want to be programme-makers, we all want to be critics (which from a purely selfish point of view was also disappointing). Chitty has seen the future and apparently it's interactive.

Now call me a Luddite, call me a cornered beast, but I didn't believe a word of it. Clutching at straws? Well, perhaps — but I took heart from the writer of the first interactive soap opera who never read the e-mail he received from the show's fans. Might stifle his creativity, he thought. Then there were the two women making an

interactive Internet version of *Boswell and Johnson's Tour of the Isles*. The main reason they took their feedback "quite seriously" was that they didn't get "an unmanageable amount". Good job they weren't making an interactive version of *Rhodes* — they'd never have left Kimberley. After about 45 minutes, the technical consensus that emerged was that if they could just speed up the small-paced video images currently available on the Internet and perhaps cut back on a little of this interactivity, they might just have something. I could be wrong, but I think they had just reinvented television. Hurrah!

Half a hurrah, at least, for *Staying Alive* (ITV, Friday), which despite being yet another drama series about nurses, threatens to be one of the most adventurous drama series ITV has commissioned for some time. Apart from Sean Blowers, as a wife and daughter-battering policeman, it has no stars and its style is not what we have come to expect from ITV, come 9 o'clock. It's like a slightly slowed down and rather dark version of *ER* — all panning cameras and tight edits. Terribly fashionable.

Despite being at the height of technical fashion, the producers chose the dated "introduce your cast" option for episode one, rather than pursuing the current vogue for hitting the ground with subplots running. As such, it was a success, although I'm still a little vague on some of the finer points of family background. If this is a success, the BBC will be kicking itself for killing off the superior but not dissimilar *Cardiac Arrest*. Still, it's always got *Casualty* (BBC1), which marked the Saturday before Bonfire Night in traditional three-stranded manner. Bless 'em.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (12278)
 - 7.00am BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (Ceefax) (43549) 9.00 BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (Ceefax) (657433)
 - 9.20am SKY CHALLENGE (s) (177434) 9.45 KILROY (s) (322620) 10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (s) (12094)
 - 11.00am NEWS (Ceefax) (201943) 11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (s) (463745) 11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (s) (645474)
 - 12.00am NEWS (Ceefax) (4370433)
 - 12.05pm NEIGHBOURS: SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL (Ceefax) (s) (203727) 12.55 THE WEATHER (Ceefax) (5134492)
 - 1.00pm NEWS (Ceefax) and weather (46636)
 - 1.30pm REGIONAL NEWS (14639162)
 - 1.40pm NEIGHBOURS (Ceefax) (s) (24540162) 2.00pm CALMY BLUFF (s) (5339) 2.30 WHOT! DID YOU SAY? (s) (742) 3.00pm INCOGNITO Out (s) (4346)
 - 3.30pm THE BUSY WORLD OF RICHARD SCARRY (s) (5337742) 3.55 BANANAMAN (s) (5115297) 4.00 BODGER AND BADGER (s) (562891) 4.15pm ACE VENTURA: PET DETECTIVE (Ceefax) (s) (5125029) 4.35pm RECORD BREAKERS (Ceefax) (s) (1285907) 5.00pm NEWSROUND (Ceefax) (6730617) 5.10pm BLUE PETER (Ceefax) (s) (2952617)
 - 5.35pm NEIGHBOURS (s) (Ceefax) (s) (933562) 6.00pm NEWS (Ceefax) and weather (471)
 - 6.30pm REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES (723)
 - 7.00pm TELL ME ADDICTS Celebrating 60 years of BBC television (Ceefax) (s) (9655)
 - 7.30pm TOMORROW'S WORLD Includes a report on a novel device to help party goers to find a compatible person to talk to (Ceefax) (907)
 - 8.00pm EASTENDERS Will Carol go to Spain with Alan? (Ceefax) (s) (5075)
 - 8.30pm VETS' SCHOOL During the Easter holidays Tracy Moules forms part of the emergency skeleton staff at the school, while Julie Richards, John Coupe and Steve Leonard experience life in local practices (Ceefax) (s) (7810)
 - 9.00pm NEWS (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8520)
 - 9.30pm PANORAMA Charting the events which led to the Ridings school in Halifax being closed pending the arrival of a new head teacher (Ceefax) (s) (341297)
 - 10.10pm BILLY CONNOLLY'S WORLD TOUR OF AUSTRALIA The comedian visits the coastline of La Perouse, Canberra and Sydney (Ceefax) (s) (595181)
 - 10.50pm THE BEST OF THE FRANK SKINNER SHOW (s) (Ceefax) (s) (203487) WALES: Read All About Us
 - 11.20pm FILM 96 WITH BARRY NORMAN Includes reviews of Michael Collins and *The Wild West Club* (Ceefax) (859487)
 - 11.50pm SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (s) (234013) WALES: Best of the Frank Skinner Show 12.00pm New Addicts 12.55pm SMILLIE'S PEOPLE 1.40pm FILM: Boundaries of the Heart 3.15pm NEWS
 - 12.35pm FILM: Boundaries of the Heart (Australia), a romantic drama set in 1950s Australia, directed by Lex Marinos (322747)
 - 2.15pm WEATHER (7439369)

- BBC2**
- 6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY 7.15 BREAKFAST NEWS (658227) 7.30pm ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (433355) 7.55pm BLUE PETER (781640) 8.20pm KING GREENFINGERS (828836) 8.25pm TALES OF AESOP (516607) 8.35pm LASSIE (617458) 9.00pm TV6 (14452) 9.30pm COSMO AND DIBS IN PUNJABI (862009) 9.40pm MEGAMATHS (832471) 10.00pm PLAYDAYS (2010) 10.30pm HOTCH POTCH HOUSE (s) (4891433) 10.50pm LOOK AND READ (4811297) 11.10pm ZIG ZAG (562498) 11.30pm GHOSTWRITER (7655) 12.00pm GNVQ (60948) 12.30pm WORKING LUNCH (35487) 1.00pm HISTORY FILE (7724623) 1.20pm SPANISH GLOSS (4831452) 1.25pm LANDMARKS (8009892) 1.45pm STORYTIME (1485638) 2.00pm KING GREENFINGERS (4895452) 2.05pm TALES OF AESOP (48956723)
 - 2.10pm THE CHAMPIONS (s) (Ceefax) (5073826) 3.00pm NEWS (Ceefax) (4488891) 3.05pm THE NATURAL WORLD (s) (s) (68813) 3.55pm NEWS (Ceefax) (5113630) 4.00pm TODAY'S THE DAY (s) (636) 4.30pm READY, STEADY, COOK! (520) 5.00pm ESTHER (s) (7433) 5.30pm GOING, GOING, GONE (s) (100)
 - 6.00pm THE MUNSTERS (s) (Ceefax) (865443)
 - 6.25pm UFO (Ceefax) (s) (90887)
 - 7.15pm AS SEEN ON TV (s) (578278)
 - 7.30pm TOP GEAR MOTORSPORT The last in the series looks at the final round of the European series from Brands Hatch, the world rally series where the manufacturer's title is still to be decided at San Remo, and a review of the Formula Three Season (Ceefax) (s) (563655)
 - 8.05pm PEOPLE'S CENTURY: 1963, Picture Power The last in the series looks at how television superseded the cinema (s) (631568)
 - 9.00pm MURDER MOST HORROR Black comedy starring Dawn French (s) (6162)

CHOICE

Short Stories: Down the Drains Channel 4, 8.00pm

There is plenty of humour in Alison Miller's film about the men who work the Belfast sewers but as in any report from Northern Ireland the political divide is never far away. It is not only at work that the crews split into Green (for the Catholic areas) and Orange (for the Protestant), their favourite leisure pursuits also follow religious lines, with Catholics favouring pool and Protestant tennis. A blocked manhole on an IRA estate is found to contain a 'roadist', the sewer worker's euphemism for condoms, provoking a riotous scene about what good Catholics have been doing with such things. The pumping station reveals greater hazards to the system, such as basins, buckets and even sofas, not to mention a surprising number of women's jobs. But such finds help to lighten a mucky job.

Sharmar TV, 8.30pm

First presented in a pilot last year, Sharmar (Clive Owen) is a scruffy private eye operating in south London. He is a failed cop and a failed husband and charmless in the bargain. Given such an unappealing hero, the show's strategy is to swamp him with plot. There should be a prize for anybody who can stay with such a complicated story and make sense of it, though the key is that the villains are either Greek or black or possibly both. If *Sharmar* is notable for one thing it is the number of explosions. The real stars are the special effects team as first a car is bombed and disappears in flames, then a house, then Sharmar's car and finally an undertaker's. The writer is Guy Jenkins, best known for topical satire in *Drop the Dead Donkey* and *Crossing the Floor*. But he manages few laughs here.

Cutting Edge: Great House Wives Channel 4, 9.00pm

The subjects of Marilyn Gaunt's film do their best to convince us that the owner of a stately home is not a guarantee of a pampered and leisurely life. Pamela, Lady Mansfield, was "dismayed and frightened" to discover that she was taking on not just a husband but his Scottish pile. When Scone Palace was opened to the public she suddenly had to learn how to run a shop and restaurant. At Knebworth, famous for its rock concerts, Chrissy, Lady Cobbold, canes chairs, mends upholstery and goes shopping at Sainsbury's for their overnight guests. Fiona is married to Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, despite failing to share his passion for cars and preferring to eat scrambled eggs alone rather than join his lavish banquets. But she has stuck it for 22 years and has an escape route: "If I get fed up," she tells us, "I go to New York."

The Crow Road BBC2, 9.30pm

With its quirky, not to say macabre, humour, and at its heart, a Scottish family whose members have a habit of dying suddenly or disappearing, Iain Banks' novel offers intriguing if unorthodox fare. Trying to make sense of his relatives is Prentice (Joseph McEdden), a 20-year-old student who has fallen out with his father, is jealous of his successful brother and is haunted by a beautiful distant cousin but too timid to tell her. So the tone is set at grandma's funeral when the old lady's body explodes on the way to being cremated. Flashbacks tend to arrest the narrative flow but not the enigma of a missing uncle and the notes left behind by a mysterious distant cousin. Banks' screenplay has reliable lines and raw language in equal measure and the director is the reliable Gavin Millar.

HTV

6.00am GMTV (1163013)

9.25pm SUPERMARKET SWEEP (1782365)

9.55pm REGIONAL NEWS (2591182)

10.00pm THE TIME... THE PLACE (24926)

10.30pm THIS MORNING (2450068)

12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (4376617)

12.30pm NEWS (Teletext) and weather (4515487)

12.55pm LOOK AND COOK (s) (4427278) 1.25pm CORONATION STREET (s) (Teletext) (7323838) 2.00pm HOME AND AWAY (Teletext) (s) (5757588) 2.25pm CROSS WITS (Teletext) (s) (5758723) 2.50pm GARDEN CALENDAR (s) (638013)

3.20pm NEWS (Teletext) (4493181)

3.25pm REGIONAL NEWS (4482452)

3.30pm TOTS TV CLASSICS (3902742) 3.40pm THE SLOW NORRIS (7832704) 3.50pm WOLVES, WITCHES AND GIANTS (3067759) 4.05pm GOODY AND CO (5041013) 4.25pm SCOOBY DOO (5027430) 4.50pm HOW 2 (5230704)

5.10pm BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (787297)

5.40pm NEWS (Teletext) and weather (558365)

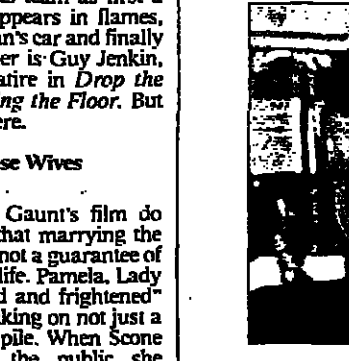
6.00pm HOME AND AWAY (s) (Teletext) (s) (101487)

6.25pm HTV NEWS (Teletext) (590975)

7.00pm THE LIST (4723)

7.30pm CORONATION STREET Des forces Claire to make a decision (Teletext) (425)

8.00pm WORLD IN ACTION Donal McIntyre discovers some people supposed to be controlling illegal drugs actively participating in the trade (Teletext) (s) (3471)



Clive Owen as Sharmar (8.30pm)

- 8.30pm SHARMAR New four-part series about a private detective. Starring Clive Owen (57592)
- 10.00pm NEWS (Teletext) and weather (22471)
- 10.30pm REGIONAL NEWS (39075)
- 10.40pm CLIVE JAMES — POSTCARD FROM THE MELBOURNE CUP Clive returns to Australia to sample the atmosphere at the country's biggest horse-racing event. He also explores the city of Melbourne, checking out the surf culture, rowing the River Yarra and landing a role in *Neighbours* (Teletext) (s) (306384)
- 11.40pm HUNTER (156636)
- 12.40pm BUSHELL ON THE BOX (s) (3761258)
- 1.10pm CUSTOMS CLASSIFIED (9914308)
- 1.55pm JONES AND JURY (s) (572121)
- 2.20pm FILM: BABYKAKES (1989) starring Ricki Lake, Craig Sheffer and Nada Despotovic. Curly, romantic comedy about a teenage housewife and her attempts to seduce a handsome train driver. Directed by Paul Schneider (308259)
- 3.55pm BITE (7951921) 4.05pm COACH (s) (5627072) 4.30pm THE TIME... THE PLACE (s) (23834)
- 5.00pm THE ENTERTAINERS (30227)
- 5.30pm ITN MORNING NEWS (93018)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm HOME AND AWAY (4427278)
 - 1.25pm CROSS WITS (39083278)
 - 1.55pm A COUNTRY PRACTICE (24554365)
 - 2.20pm BLUE HEELERS (5057668)
 - 5.10-6.40pm SHORTLAND STREET (7787297)
 - 6.25pm CENTRAL NEWS (590975)
 - 7.00-7.30pm BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (4723)
 - 11.40pm BAGDAD CAFE (351704)
 - 12.10pm BEYOND REALITY (4208308)
 - 12.40pm NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE EXTRA (2885485)
 - 1.25pm THE CRIME HOUR (7823495)
 - 2.25pm JONES AND JURY (6638650)
 - 2.45pm FILM: DRACULA'S DAUGHTER (9895722)
 - 4.00pm JOBBINDER (2079747)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm CORONATION STREET (4427278)
 - 1.25-1.55pm CROSS WITS (39083278)
 - 1.55pm HOME AND AWAY (26237839)
 - 2.25pm TIME OF MY LIFE (57578075)
 - 2.55pm A COUNTRY PRACTICE (1816029)
 - 5.10-6.40pm HOME AND AWAY (7787297)
 - 6.00pm WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (34704)
 - 7.00-7.30pm BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (4723)
- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm CROSS WITS (4427278)
 - 1.25pm HOME AND AWAY (39083278)
 - 1.55pm A COUNTRY PRACTICE (24554365)
 - 2.20-3.20pm BLUE HEELERS (5152487)
 - 5.10pm HOME AND AWAY (7787297)
 - 6.00pm MERIDIAN TONIGHT (639)
 - 6.30pm SPIRIT OF THE SOUTH (891)
 - 7.00-7.30pm BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (4723)
 - 11.40pm BEYOND REASON (351704)
 - 12.10pm MERIDIAN WORKS (4208308)
- ANGLIA**
- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm CROSS WITS (4427278)
 - 1.25pm HOME AND AWAY (39083278)
 - 1.55pm JUSTICE OF THE LAND (24554365)
 - 2.20-3.20pm BLUE HEELERS (5152487)
 - 5.10pm SHORTLAND STREET (7787297)
 - 6.30pm ANGLIA NEWS (891)
 - 7.00-7.30pm BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (4723)
 - 11.40pm TERRORS OF THE DEEP (156636)
- S4C**
- Starts: 6.30am TAKE FIVE (57948) 7.00pm THE BIG BREAKFAST (32487) 9.30pm HERE'S ONE! MADE EARLIER (80920) 9.30pm YSGOLION (520891) 10.00pm RIGHT TO REPLY (25034) 10.30pm BACKDATE (57655) 1.00pm SLOTT MATHRIN (33446) 1.30pm FILM: THE GIFT HORSE (3010636) 3.20pm FRESH POP (4482075) 3.30pm THE LIVING SEA (297) 4.00pm FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (704) 4.30pm GARDEN DOCTORS (988) 5.00pm PUMP (5029) 5.30pm COUNTRYWIDE THE SEARCH FOR THE SUPREME CHAMPION (568) 6.00pm NEWYDOL (979891) 6.05pm HENO (260015) 6.35pm JACPOD (255704) 7.00pm POBOL Y CWM (316297) 7.25pm BEIBL PETER WILLIAMS (82742) 8.00pm BACHA HI O'MA (1013) 8.30pm NEWYDOL (979891) 9.00pm REBEL (4750) 9.05pm FRIENDS (37891) 10.00pm SGORIO (9983) 11.00pm THE AMERICAN FOOTBALL BIG MATCH (932013) 12.00pm TRANS WORLD SPORT (3844414) 1.20-1.50pm THE LOVERS (9006308) 4.00pm YSGOLION (20579)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.30am TAKE 5 (57948)
 - 7.00pm THE BIG BREAKFAST (32487)
 - 9.00pm HERE'S ONE! MADE EARLIER (80920)
 - 9.30pm SCHOOLS: GEOGRAPHY JUNCTION 9.45pm BOOK BOB 10.00pm STAGE TWO SCIENCE 10.15pm LEARN SIGN LANGUAGE 10.20pm PLACE AND PEOPLE 10.40pm THE ENGLISH PROGRAMME 11.05pm ENCYCLOPEDIA GALACTICA 11.15pm THE MIX 11.30pm RAT-A-TAT-TAT 11.45pm JUNIOR TECHNOLOGY
 - 12.00pm RIGHT TO REPLY (s) (Ceefax) (23864) 12.30pm BACKDATE (57655) 1.00pm SESAME STREET (5421704) 1.55pm SOMETHING TO TELL YOU (24552907)
 - 2.20pm FILM: The Iron Curtain (1948, b/w) Cold War thriller based on a true story. With Dana Andrews and Gene Tierney. Directed by William A. Wellman (Teletext) (598638)
 - 4.00pm FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (Teletext) (704) 4.30pm COUNTDOWN (Teletext) (988) 5.00pm MONTELL WILLIAMS SHOW (Teletext) (5351450) 5.45pm ANTON MOSIMANN — NATURALLY (Teletext) (822452)
 - 6.00pm MOVIEWATCH Young critics from Glasgow offer their opinions on *Fled* starring Laurence Fishburne and Stephen Baldwin, *Michael Collins* starring Liam Neeson and Julia Roberts and the witchcraft thriller, *The Craft* (181)
 - 6.30pm HOLLYOAKS (Teletext) (s) (433)
 - 7.00pm CHANNEL 4 NEWS (Teletext) (718433) 7.55pm THE SLOT (631278)
 - 8.00pm CHOICE Short Stories: Down the Drains The sewers of Belfast (Teletext) (1013)
 - 8.30pm THE REAL HOLIDAY SHOW Gabby Rosoline's holiday films from Kenya, Greece and Cornwall (s) (1920)
- CHOICE CUTTING EDGE:** Great House Wives A look at the lives of three women who reside in great stately homes (Teletext) (s) (2029)
- 10.00pm HOMICIDE: LIFE ON THE STREET — Justice** The first of a two-part story. When a former cop is found dead, his son, also a cop, tries to make matters into his own hands (Teletext) (s) (9988)
- 11.00pm THE AMERICAN FOOTBALL BIG MATCH** Gary Inlaych introduces the Washington Redskins v the Buffalo Bills (s) (932013)
- 12.00pm TRANS WORLD SPORT** (3844414)
- 1.20pm LET THE BLOOD RUN FREE** Dick is restored to his normal self (s) (s) (9006308)
- 1.50pm FILM: The Life of Emile Zola** (1937, b/w) Oscar-winning biopic starring Paul Muni as the celebrated French novelist. Directed by William Dieterle (773018)
- 4.00-5.00pm SCHOOLS: Making Sense of Science** (s) (20679)



Lady Montagu (9pm)

- SKY 1**
- 7.00pm Love Connection (3848101) 7.30pm Paddy's War (381346) 7.40pm JAGGED (325243) 8.10pm Head (325477) 8.30pm The World (579585) 8.55pm Oprah Winfrey (482984) 9.00pm Real TV (616055) 11.40pm Sally Jessy Raphael (575775) 11.55pm The World (579585) 12.00pm The World (579585) 12.05pm The World (579585) 12.10pm The World (579585) 12.15pm The World (579585) 12.20pm The World (579585) 12.25pm The World (579585) 12.30pm The World (579585) 12.35pm The World (579585) 12.40pm The World (579585) 12.45pm The World (579585) 12.50pm The World (579585) 12.55pm The World (579585) 1.00pm The World (579585) 1.05pm The World (579585) 1.10pm The World (579585) 1.15pm The World (579585) 1.20pm The World (579585) 1.25pm The World (579585) 1.30pm The World (579585) 1.35pm The World (579585) 1.40pm The World (579585) 1.45pm The World (579585) 1.50pm The World (579585) 1.55pm The World (579585) 2.00pm The World (579585)

- THE DISNEY CHANNEL**
- 5.00pm Movie Club takes over at 10pm. 6.00pm Mouse Tracks (6116726) 6.25pm Chuck Atlantic (2607559) 6.50pm The World (579585) 7.15pm The World (579585) 7.40pm The World (579585) 7.55pm The World (579585) 8.10pm The World (579585) 8.25pm The World (579585) 8.40pm The World (579585) 8.55pm The World (579585) 9.10pm The World (579585) 9.25pm The World (579585) 9.40pm The World (579585) 9.55pm The World (579585) 10.10pm The World (579585) 10.25pm The World (579585) 10.40pm The World (579585) 10.55pm The World (579585) 11.10pm The World (579585) 11.25pm The World (579585) 11.40pm The World (579585) 11.55pm The World (579585) 12.10pm The World (579585) 12.25pm The World (579585) 12.40pm The World (579585) 12.55pm The World (579585) 1.00pm The World (579585) 1.05pm The World (579585) 1.10pm The World (579585) 1.15pm The World (579585) 1.20pm The World (579585) 1.25pm The World (579585) 1.30pm The World (579585) 1.35pm The World (579585) 1.40pm The World (579585) 1.45pm The World (579585) 1.50pm The World (579585) 1.55pm The World (579585) 2.00pm The World (579585)

- SKY SPORTS 3**
- 12.00pm Max Out (5887094) 12.30pm Rebel Sport (2542659) 1.00pm World of Speed and Beauty (4769897) 1.30pm Golf Anderson Consulting Championship Preview (2542659) 2.00pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 2.30pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 3.00pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 3.30pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 4.00pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 4.30pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 5.00pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 5.30pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 6.00pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 6.30pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 7.00pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 7.30pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 8.00pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 8.30pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 9.00pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 9.30pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 10.00pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 10.30pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 11.00pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 11.30pm Golf European Challenge (2542659) 12.00pm Golf 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WELL DRESSED 47

Burton aims to be one of the top shops

BUSINESS

FAST FORWARD 48

Supermarket expansion for Car Group



MONDAY NOVEMBER 4 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

BT seals \$20bn takeover of MCI to become global force

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM AND CARL MORTSHED

BRITISH TELECOM'S agreed \$20 billion takeover of MCI, the US telecommunications group, is the largest transatlantic deal in history and will create "a new, high-growth, global communications powerhouse," Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive of BT, said yesterday.

He said that the cash-and-share deal would raise BT's earnings after one year and would add £500 million a year to combined pre-tax profits after five years. He expects shareholder and regulatory approval by next autumn.

He also unveiled a range of sweeteners for BT shareholders, including a 35p special dividend that will cost £2.3 billion.

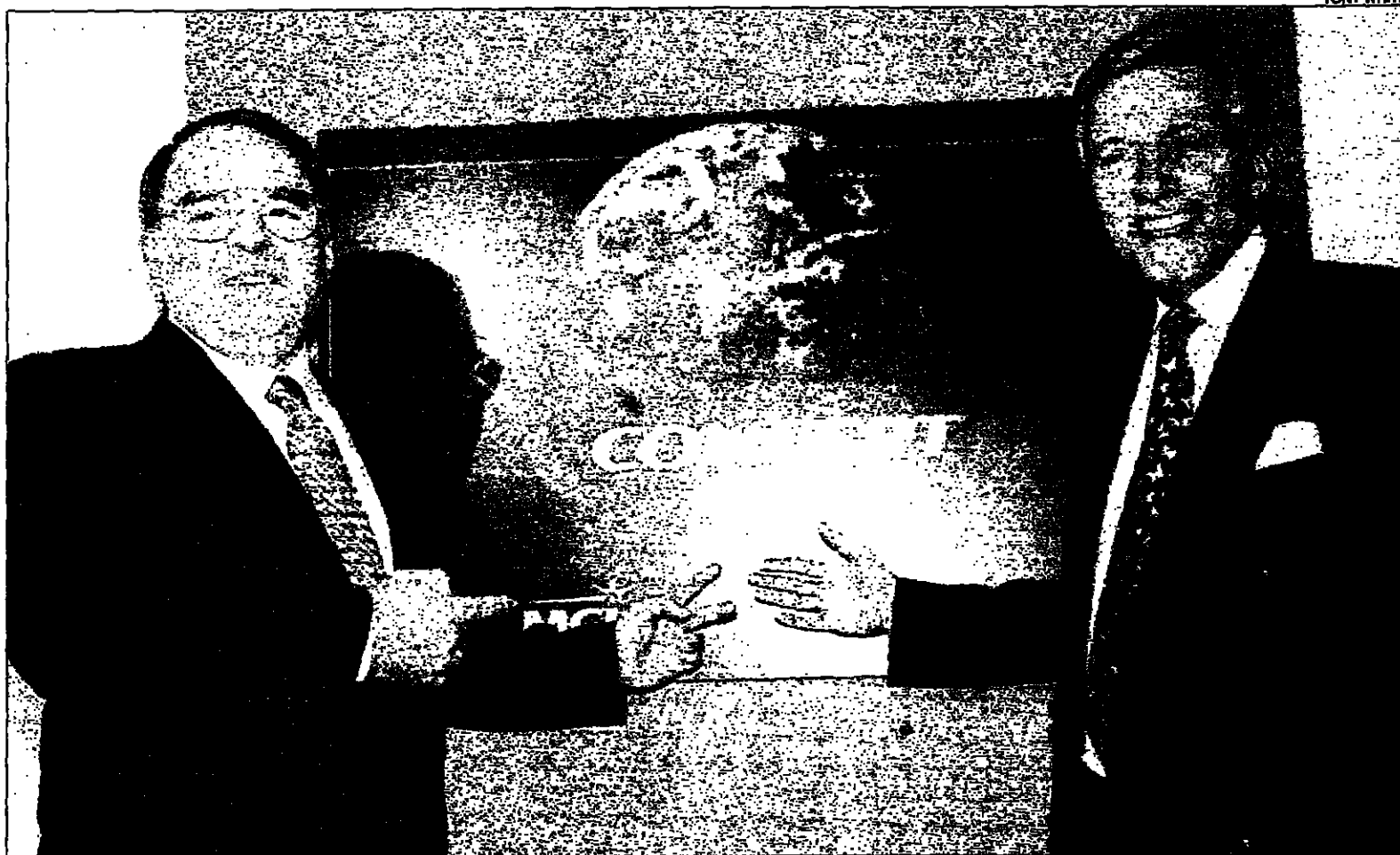
The two companies are merging their operations to form a holding company named Concert — the name of an existing joint venture between the two companies.

This will be 66 per cent owned by former BT shareholders and 34 per cent by those of MCI. It will be incorporated in the UK and have headquarters in London and Washington.

BT and MCI will operate in their home markets under their original names. Concert will have annual revenues of more than £25 billion, cashflow of about £7.5 billion, and 43 million business and residential customers in 70 countries.

Sir Iain Vallance, chairman of BT, and Bert Roberts, chairman of MCI, will be co-chairmen of Concert. Sir Colin Marshall will be non-executive deputy chairman and Sir Peter Bonfield will be chief executive. Gerald Taylor, current president and chief operating officer of MCI, will hold the same job at Concert and will report to Sir Peter. There will be eight non-executives — four from each side.

MCI has a 13.5 per cent stake in The News Corporation, parent company of The Times. Mr Taylor said: "I expect the relationship with News Corp to continue," but said he did not foresee the deal



Gerald Taylor, of MCI, and Sir Peter Bonfield, of BT, as they unveiled the biggest transatlantic deal in history in London yesterday

changing the nature of the relationship. Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corp and a director of MCI, will not become a director of Concert.

The takeover comes six months after the breakdown of alliance talks between BT and Cable and Wireless, its biggest UK rival. Sir Peter denied that MCI, in which BT already holds a 20 per cent stake, was second best. "It is first best," he said.

While C&W would have given BT access to potentially lucrative Asian markets, Sir Peter said he hoped that Concert would attract Asian partners and named NTT, the Japanese telecoms giant, as one he would be keen to work with.

BT's special dividend will be payable with this year's final

dividend in September 1997. It is not conditional on the merger going through. The final dividend for the year ended March 31 will be 11.95p, giving a full-year dividend of 19.85p, up 6.1 per cent. BT is also to ask its shareholders for approval to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares, but said the actual amount and timing of the move would depend on market conditions.

BT is paying a premium for

MCI, but analysts were tying themselves in knots yesterday over how to value it exactly.

The quibble is over the base value of BT shares for the purposes of valuing the share element of the offer to MCI holders. MCI shareholders will receive the equivalent of 5.4 new BT shares and \$6 in cash for each MCI share. They will not be receiving the BT special dividend nor the ordinary dividend, so some 55p

should, some analysts argue, be deducted from the value of BT shares offered. BT's offer is then worth \$32, a premium of 28 per cent to the MCI stock price on Thursday. Valued at the Friday closing price for BT, the US company is worth \$36 per share, but Doug Maine, MCI finance officer, argued that the 10 per cent share buyback would boost the value to \$39.60 per share. Analysts were not betting that

BT's shares would suffer much from the dilution of the share issue and lower initial earnings. Some suggested the special dividend was a bribe to prop up the BT share price. Others were undecided on whether the strategy would work but were prepared to give BT the benefit of the doubt over the extra payout, the promise of a competitive dividend policy and the prospect of share repurchases.

Video link in the merger chain

FITTINGLY, British Telecom's takeover of MCI has involved a large amount of telecommunications wizardry (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The chairman of the two companies made extensive use of video conferencing during negotiations, even in the final, most delicate, stages. Sir Iain Vallance, of BT, and Bert Roberts, of MCI, spoke

to each other twice on Saturday via a video link after their boards had met to agree to the final terms of the deal. Video links were also used to coordinate rehearsals of the two companies' presentations for analysts and journalists, which were held in London and New York yesterday.

Video conferencing provides audio and visual links

so that meetings taking place miles apart, even on opposite sides of the world, can be run as one.

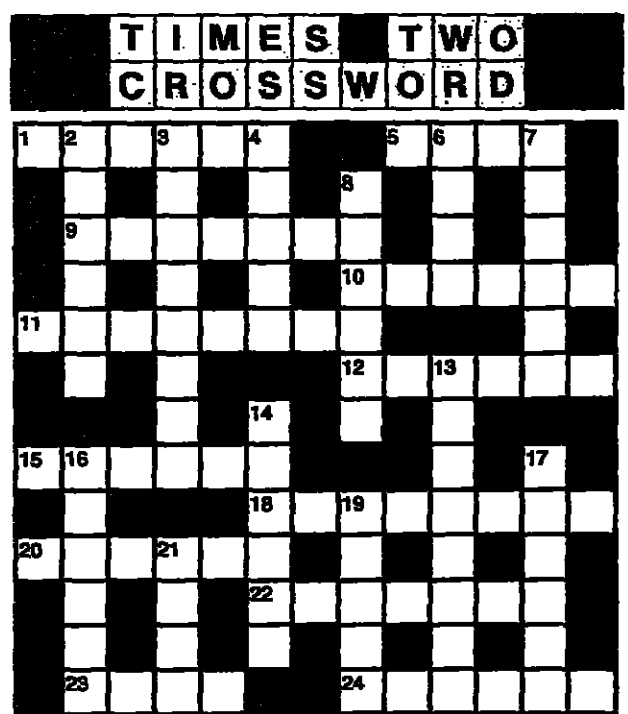
An adviser to BT said that more traditional methods of arranging major deals, including flying across the Atlantic for face-to-face meetings, had also played a major part in the deal.

"You still need to be able to

look people straight in the eye," he said.

An adviser to MCI commented, that ironically, "often big deals are not as complicated as some smaller ones". He said that talks started in September and that outline terms were agreed by the end of October.

BT's gamble, page 50



No 930

ACROSS

- 1 Opening play (6)
5 Go buying; denounce (4)
9 Hug (7)
10 Observing, writing down (6)
11 News broadcast (8)
12 Rival of Roland: a Cromwell (6)
15 Follow, chase after (6)
18 ALY heroine (8)
20 Chide (6)
22 Russian tea-urn (7)
23 Act as ordered (4)
24 Scrape away (6)

DOWN

- 2 Broad road (6)
3 Too fond of drink (8)
4 Area of land; pamphlet (5)
6 Lame; stop (4)
7 Dive rapidly (6)
8 Boat's (triangular) flag (6)
13 Having it easy (2,6)
14 Unorthodox religious belief (6)
16 Did in the past; familiar with (4,2)
17 Insufficiently genetically diverse (6)
19 Brazilian dance (5)
21 Strong prompting (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 929

- ACROSS: 1 Pundit 4 Cherub 8 Alas 9 Vocalist 10 Crow's nest 13 Fusée 15 Elide 16 Padre 18 Petit four 21 Canon law 22 Dali 23 Denote 24 Namely
DOWN: 1 Place 2 Reasoned 3 Haven 5 Heartfelt 6 Ruin 7 Barkle 11 Sleep on it 12 Elliot 14 Sabotage 16 Placid 17 Brainy 19 Iowan 20 Anon

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EU to call time for Major over 48-hour week

The opposing armies are drawn up facing each other, pennants fluttering in the breeze, backbenchers and spin-doctors await only the order to attack. The election battle over Europe begins in eight days.

On November 12, the European Court of Justice will, barring an unimaginable change of heart, rule against Britain and say that the EU's directive capping the length of the working week at 48 hours is legal. Since noise and smoke are about to obliterate this issue for perhaps six months, here are some truths about the social chapter.

John Major claims that the 48-hour week rule breaches a promise given five years ago at Maastricht that EU social law would not apply to Britain. Answering a question in the Commons about the 48-hour week last July, the Prime Minister said he had "reached an agreement on ensuring that we were not covered by that at Maastricht, and I intend that that agreement shall be kept. Our colleagues in Europe need not expect that we will reach further agreements at the next inter-governmental conference unless they are prepared to restore the agreement."

This daisy chain of mistaken assumptions reveals Mr Major to be in the realms of fantasy. His opposite numbers in the EU have not breached faith because they have not given him any blanket immunity from social law. At Maastricht, Britain opted out of seven social policy clauses, better known as the "social chapter", in the new treaty. The Government remains involved in, and bound by, any social rules agreed under other, older bits of the treaty.

The 48-hour week proposal was born before the social chapter was even thought of. Britain was fully involved in several sterile years of debate over the directive and managed to carve out a number of exemptions and delays that will soften its impact when it comes into force here.

By seeking to cancel Britain's agreement to the directive and to be insulated from any such thing in the future, Mr Major is asking for a bigger, better social opt-out than the one he has. His EU partners will refuse. Tory ministers will enter the election campaign pledged to wreck or indefinitely delay the treaty conference until their wishes



THIS WEEK IN EUROPE

are met. The rest of the EU will be fearful, fidgety and impatient to be dealing with Labour. On what its commitment to join the social chapter will mean in practice. Labour will shilly-shally in front of businessmen who value the social opt-out. No real bargaining can take place until the election result is in.

Several lessons emerge: first that Mr Major is both loser and winner. Continental custom and practice is moving away from working hours limits. Virtually all EU governments except Britain limited the working week before the directive was agreed; some now wish they did not. Most governments in Western Europe are lightening labour regulation at the request of business and industry. The writers of the directive who thought that shortening working hours helps create jobs are watching the evidence stack up against them. Two French studies have just found no connection between shorter working hours and job creation.

The second lesson applies to Labour as much as to the Tories since it concerns the quality of British decision-making on matters European. British ministers think that their partners played "dirty pool" in making the 48-hour rule a health and safety measure.

Continental politicians and judges think working hours are naturally to do with health and safety and that it is equally obvious for an EU treaty to reflect this. Anglo-Saxon and Rhine-land capitalism are in straightened conflict.

When interests clash, a government negotiating an EU directive being pushed by a majority needs one of three things: an opt-out, good lawyers to spot hidden dangers and to weaken the text or a plausible, and soothing, explanation for voters about why Britain lost out. On the 48-hour week, Mr Major has none of these.

Leading article, page 23
GEORGE BROCK

Papal Mass marks 50 years in the priesthood

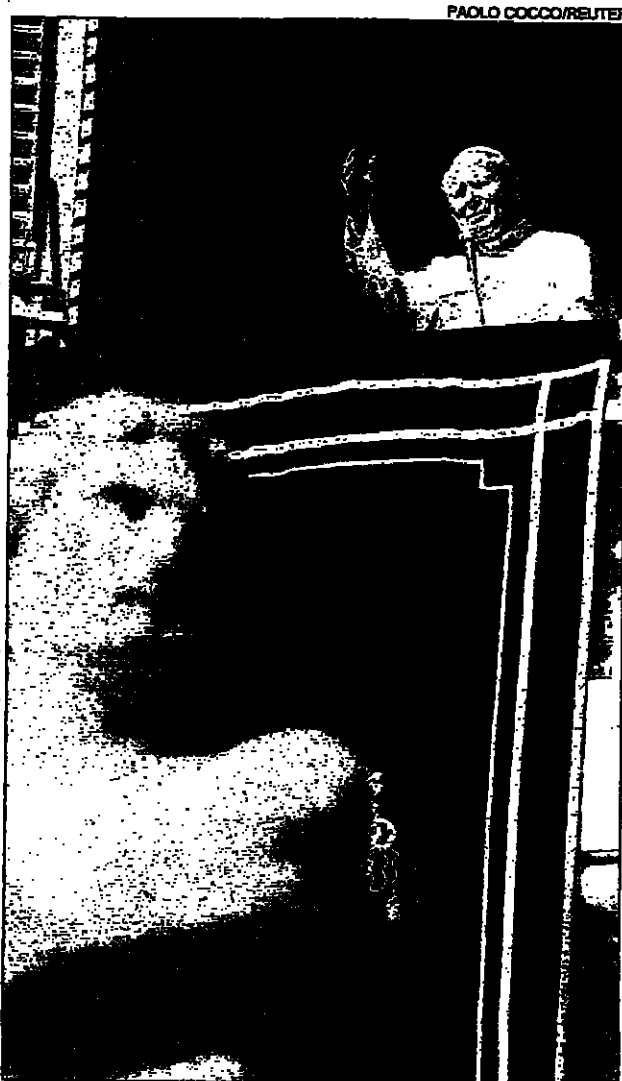
FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Pope celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination at the weekend, and told how he wrote his memoirs during his summer retreat in the mountains while waiting to enter hospital to have his appendix removed.

Vatican officials said the autobiography, *Gift and Mystery*, would be published before the end of the year in several languages.

But it was unlikely to deal with controversial issues of his 19-year papacy, such as the 1981 attempt on his life or his role in the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe. Instead it would focus on his youth, the Second World War and his career as bishop and cardinal in Cracow before being elected pontiff in 1978.

The Pope appeared tired at the Mass commemorating his ordination in 1946. He recalled the horrors of Nazi-occupied Poland, the loss of most of his immediate family, and his decision at the age of 26 to give up a theatre career for the priesthood.



The Pope blesses pilgrims in Rome yesterday at a Mass in which he recalled the horror of Nazi-rule in Poland

Milosevic Socialists poised for victory in Yugoslav election

BY DESSA TREVISAN

THE Socialists of President Milosevic of Serbia were poised for victory as about seven million apathetic Serbs went to the polls yesterday to elect the lower chamber of the 138-seat federal Yugoslav parliament as well as local and municipal authorities.

During the morning it was the elderly, barely surviving on frugal, irregular monthly cheques, who queued at Belgrade polling stations, most of them bewildered by the lists. They are safe voters for the regime, fearing they might find themselves even without the little they do get. After years of defiance, the Serbs have slumped into apathy and the mood is that there is not much to choose between the regime and opposition — "they are all the same".

The election is being boycotted by two million Albanians in Kosovo. Since President Milosevic abolished the region's autonomy and imposed martial law in 1989 the Albani-

ans have elected and set up their own parallel parliament and government, most of whose members are in exile, with Dr Ibrahim Rugova their president.

They are set on full autonomy and are doggedly and patiently pursuing that goal, knowing that Mr Milosevic eventually will concede what-

ever the West tells him to.

The election for the Yugoslav federal parliament is crucial for Mr Milosevic, who is aspiring to the post of President of Yugoslavia (Serbia plus Montenegro) after his term as President of Serbia expires next year.

Under the Serbian constitution he cannot be elected for a third term. He might try to amend the constitution, should the presidency of Yugoslavia not be forthcoming, but to do that he needs a two-thirds majority in the Serbian parliament. For the presidency of Yugoslavia he needs a simple majority in the federal parliament. Even a marginal victory should allow him to achieve that ambition.

An indication that Mr Milosevic will become President of Yugoslavia comes in reports that the old presidential residence occupied by President Tito, who ruled until his death in 1980, is being redecorated and refurbished.

East Europe at the polls

Petar Stoyanov, the Bulgarian opposition candidate, was heading for victory yesterday in the country's presidential elections, according to exit polls (Our Foreign Staff write). In Bucharest, also yesterday, efforts by President Iliescu of Romania to win re-election may be thwarted by widespread corruption allegations.



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Marcus du Sautoy asks how we can look at multidimensional shapes when we are equipped with only 3-D vision

Chart the realm of the fourth dimension

You have just turned to the science page of *The Times*. To do so, your brain sent a message in 28-dimensional space to your arm — one dimension for each muscle involved.

Multidimensional space surely belongs to Hollywood sci-fi movies or H.G. Wells short stories. But in *Cambridge today*, fiction becomes a reality. For the next six weeks, the Newton Institute is playing host to mathematicians from around the world who have been blessed with a special talent — an ability to see in four dimensions.

Most of us are happy with the idea of three spatial dimensions. Asked what is the fourth dimension, those who have read their Hawking will probably reply "time". For scientists, it has become important to keep track not only of someone's position but the time they are at that position.

But in daily life we are dealing not only with four but many dimensions, or variables. Turning a page — each muscle counts as a variable — is one example. The economy is another. Any government's economic decisions can be viewed as a journey through a space with many dimensions, one for interest rates, another for inflation etc. Eddie George and Kenneth Clarke are just like two explorers deciding each month which way to turn next in this multidimensional economic world. Setting off in one direction on interest rates, it is difficult to assess whether, in the inflationary direction, they will hit a hill or slide down a valley.

For many problems from physics to economics, it is important to know what possible shapes can exist in these multidimensional worlds.

But how can we look at these shapes when we are equipped only with three-dimensional vision? One approach is to look at the way we build three-dimensional objects out of two-dimensional shapes. For example, take six squares arranged in the shape of a cross. We can fold this figure to make a cube in three

dimensions. Well, if you want to build a four-dimensional cube, Dalí's picture opposite shows the three-dimensional shape that you will have to fold up into four dimensions.

An alternative way to see yourself in two dimensions is to look at your shadow. It doesn't tell you everything about yourself in three dimensions but it gives you some idea. In the same way, we can study beasts in four dimensions by looking at their shadows in three dimensions.

However, these methods still provide a limited insight into what possible creatures live out there in four dimensions. After all, as with real shadows, two 4-D shapes with the same shadow are not necessarily the same shape.

For years mathematicians have been stumbling around to find a decent pair of 4-D glasses through which to view these creatures. Then, in 1982, a young graduate student in Oxford, Simon Donaldson, found an unexpected pair of glasses lying around in the physicist's backyard — Yang-Mills equations.

The Yang-Mills equations describe the behaviour of the forces, like gluons and bosons, which hold together subatomic particles. They are a more sophisticated version of Maxwell's equations in physics, which tell us how the forces of electricity and magnetism are related.

Professor Donaldson showed that the solutions of these equations provide a mysterious key to understanding what makes the four-dimensional world tick. He used the solutions to discover a fingerprint which, unlike the 3-D shadows, allowed him to distinguish whether two 4-D shapes were the same. Mathematicians call such fingerprints invariants. As with human beings, the fingerprint is a tiny portion of the whole entity but is sufficient to tell humans, and 4-D shapes, apart. Professor Donaldson's

Those who have read their Hawking will reply 'time'

work was ground-breaking. It earned him a Fields Medal, equivalent in mathematics to the Nobel prize. But the 4-D specs he had discovered were still very difficult to look through. The main problem with his invariants was that the fingerprints he produced were infinite, extending for ever.

However, physicists Nathan Seiberg at Rutgers University and Ed Witten at Princeton recently tossed a new equation into the debate. The Seiberg-Witten equations extend the Yang-Mills equations by describing not only the forces that bind matter but also how matter behaves. Professor Witten, famous in the mathematical world for applying his physicist's intuition to answer deep problems in mathematics, claimed that these new equations provided mathematicians with a new, easier-to-read fingerprint.

What made Professor Witten's 4-D specs so much clearer is a phenomenon called compactness. This quality makes infinite things look finite. Since mathematicians are essentially finite creatures at heart, they quickly took notice.

If you are confused about multidimensional space, take heart. So are mathematicians. It is still not understood why a bunch of equations in physics should help mathematicians, but the fact is that they do.

Meanwhile, the six-week meeting at the Newton Institute will bring together physicists and these four-dimensional explorers to see how much further they can peer into this murky world. But, now that physicists have tossed mathematicians a powerful pair of 4-D specs, we can begin to chart the mysterious realms of four dimensions.

Dr Marcus du Sautoy is a Royal Society University Research Fellow and a Fellow of Robinson College, Cambridge.



If you want to build a 4-D cube, Dalí's picture shows the 3-D shape that you will have to fold up into four dimensions

Putting a new curve on evolution

An original voice is welcomed by Nigel Hawkes

From our position of dominance in the world, it is natural for human beings to see evolution as an inevitable process designed to put us there. Natural but wrong, argues the palaeontologist Stephen Jay Gould in his latest book, *Life's Grandeur*, to be published by Jonathan Cape. The book attacks the idea that there is anything progressive about evolution. Natural selection, acting on the random variation that occurs in each species, is a directionless process that might just as easily not have produced human intelligence at all.

For more than 20 years, Professor Gould has been producing a stream of stimulating books which have won him a unique reputation. Less obviously, he has also been a passionate follower of baseball, whose copious statistics he deploys in *Life's Grandeur* to illustrate how evolution has appeared to progress without in fact doing so at all. It is, according to this argument, all a matter of distribution curves which find successful baseball hitters — and the human species — lying at their outer limits. Next Monday Professor Gould will present these ideas in a *Times/Dillons* lecture at the Institute of Education in London.

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Sports for all seasons

WHY do some sports have a season that goes on for ever, while others make do with no more than a couple of dozen games to determine their league championship? Hands up if you thought this was simply a function of how greedy and grasping the promoters and clubs are. This can't be the whole truth, however. The US baseball season lasts a whopping 162 games, while American football makes do with just 16. There is no commensurate difference in the commercial motives of the people who run the two sports. Now an American psychologist, Dr Nicholas Christenfeld, of the University of California in San Diego, has come up with a different explanation.

He believes that season length is a function of the balance between skill and chance in every sport. "Con-

tests with too much chance are pointless as measures of relative ability," he argues in *Nature*. "Those with too little chance provide no suspense."

As a result, sports have over the years evolved seasons that provide the right mix to keep spectators interested. He shows this by calculating the "reliability" of different sports — basically the degree to which results can be predicted by examining other results in the same league. For an individual game, this varies hugely, with baseball proving the least reliable and the two rugby codes, union and league, the most reliable.

Over a season, however, all sports achieve a reliability that is very similar, tending towards a state in which skill and chance play a roughly equal part in the final outcome.

Reliable sports need few games to achieve this; unreliable sports need many. "Con-

able sports lots of games. That, in essence, is why the American Football League play off in just a single game, while the baseball World Series is the best of seven.



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

Is there anybody out there?

YEARs of silence have failed to damp the spirit of those who enjoy searching for signs of extraterrestrial intelligence. The most comprehensive search ever to be launched has just begun at the 140ft US National Radio Astronomy Observatory, at Green Bank, West Virginia.

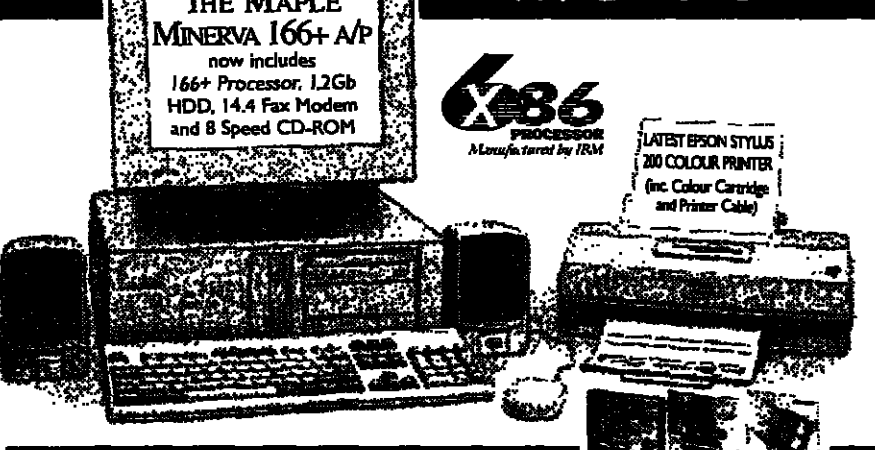
Project Phoenix, a five-year programme privately financed by the SETI Institute, uses sophisticated electronics to scrutinise large numbers of radio channels. The first-ever search, made by Frank Drake in 1960, examined only one radio channel at a time, but the new search will be 100 trillion times more sensitive.

This is partly the result of using a larger telescope, but the majority of the improvement comes from digital electronics that allow rapid scanning across the radio dial. The receiver linked to the Green Bank telescope can monitor 28 million channels at once, and by stepping the channels slowly up the dial, the searchers will be able to listen to two billion frequency channels between 1,000 and 3,000 Hz. They will point the telescope at nearby Sun-like stars, and have a target list of 1,000 such stars. A second dish at Woodbury, Georgia, will be used to distinguish between genuine extraterrestrial signals and man-made noise from such things as telecommunications satellites or military radars.

Governments are reluctant to finance this kind of thing, so Project Phoenix has raised the \$3.4 million a year it will cost from entrepreneurs, including William Hewlett and David Packard (of Hewlett-Packard), Gordon Moore of Intel and Paul Allen of Microsoft.

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When fat becomes much more than a feminist issue

Nigella Lawson hails a new women's magazine which celebrates being large

God, how refreshing it is to open a glossy magazine and see pictures of large women looking gorgeous. It's true that women's magazines, and the fashion sections of the whole gamut of newspapers, do sporadically throw sweetmeats to the unmodel-like (the vast majority of their readers) by granting a feature on the hitherto unrecognised allure of the fleshier female, but somehow it always comes across as a sop. We all suspect anyway that the fashion editors who run such pieces in the first place would have a nervous breakdown if they even began to start bulging out of their size 8 Gucci hipsters.

But eight million women in this country are, apparently, a size 16 or over. Catering for them, then, is not so much a case of special pleading, as a canny recognition that there is a sizeable gap in the market. The contemporary sensibility demands that everything be seen as a moral agenda, a political crusade, but it should be made absolutely clear that *Encore* magazine (I am not sure about the significance of the title — a plea for second helpings, may be makes no such claims: it is purely a commercial enterprise. Not a newsstand title, but an own-label magazine from Evans (which used to be called Evans Outside), it is designed solely to sell more of its clothes.

We shouldn't, then, be surprised if a shop that makes clothes for women of size 16 to

32 (though you can bet that the models featured are all nearer a size 16 than a size 32) brings out a magazine to help them to feel good about it, but it is extraordinary how this fact is leapt upon for signs of deeper meaning. The wait gives way as a new Rubensesque age is ushered in, is a common interpretation. Perhaps this can be put down to wishful thinking, because it ain't going to happen. The fat activists can



Commercial aims

trumpet this publication as much as they like, but no one is ever going to be convinced that it is better to be fat than thin. I think it is very important that women do see it is possible to look wonderful without having to be a size 10, but that's not quite the same thing. The difficulty, apart from anything else, is that the women who look good in this magazine would look good in any magazine. Isabella Laden, one of the models and the daughter of the great chef, Noddy, (and to use an expression of my late maternal grandmother, surely came by her size honestly) is a beautiful woman; her size is irrelevant. And perhaps that's a key issue in all this. Women care desperately about their and other women's weight: men are much less bothered.

Like all women I have had my thinner times and my fatter (right now, postpartum, I'm about in the middle) and at my heavier it is the scrutinising eye of other women that I fear. Women can calibrate another's weight to



As every woman who's ever put on weight knows: Marilyn Monroe was a size 16. So are eight million British women

within an ounce. But I have never met a man who was much troubled by a woman's fluctuating mass. Luckily, I learnt this lesson young. I was at a party with a boyfriend and, as one does, was giving the once-over to all the other women in the room. "Do you think she's pretty?" I asked about one girl there. "No," he replied. "But," I countered, "she's got a very good figure." "You can't say things like that," he told me. "Someone's either attractive or they aren't. That's all there is to it: size doesn't come into it."

I suspect it is harder to see someone's attractiveness when they get over a certain size, but as every woman who's ever put on weight knows to chant: Marilyn Monroe was, after all, a size 16. We all know that

judgmental. Somehow the fat activists want it both ways: they want to be fat-by-choice and fat-as-victim. And even more muddled is the desire to declare size irrelevant, not to be broached even, and yet to cling to it as a defining feature, as if the fatness itself were some politically charged, ideologically welded bond. And for all that attractiveness may not be in indirect ratio to bodyweight (or otherwise), I suspect that "size doesn't matter" is no truer when trotted out to placate women as to soothe men. It does matter, but most significantly to ourselves alone.

For all the ideologically sound sloganising, the real truth is that women do feel awful about themselves when they're overweight and it is the self-hatred, the self-flagellation and the self-disgust that makes them unhappy, not the projected judgment of other people. I don't deny that there is a gross intolerance of women who are deemed to have fallen at some notional aesthetic fence: that is undeniably distasteful.

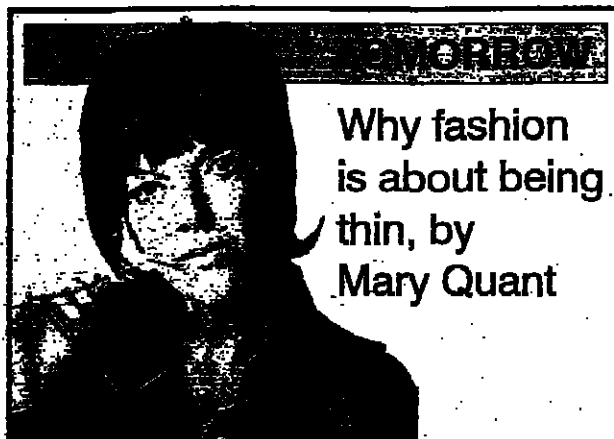
Fat can be, as Susie Orbach (who is not fat) famously declared, a feminist issue. But it's a lot more besides. Of course, we know it is overeating that makes you fat, but it is what leads women to overeat which is the problem. It is a vicious circle: you feel bad about yourself so you overeat and so you feel bad about yourself, and so on ad infinitum. Maybe if those over a size 16 or 18 can open a magazine and see people of the same size looking wonderful, they will feel less alienated than when staring balefully at the punishing figures of the more skeletal models. Fashion is aspirational, but there is no reason why fatter women can't aspire to look good as well.

You can defend, celebrate and admire as much as you want (and I do want) but for ourselves, thanks very much, we'd rather be thin: and isn't that the truth?

Women care about their and other women's weight

The truth is we all feel better thinner rather than fatter. I took the line of the fat-activists in good faith until I put on three stone after the birth of my first child. And it was hell. I think it is wrong for fat to be demonised: it wasn't the end of the world, but I felt an awful lot better about myself when I'd lost it all. I suspect everyone does.

These days one is frowned upon for saying such a thing. Even to declare that one might be happier thinner (by which, I should add, I don't mean anorexically thin, just a size one can be by eating normally) is seen to be unpalatably



Why fashion is about being thin, by Mary Quant

Xenophobia keeps us buying Meet Johnny Foreigner

The Referendum Party may have its signature music — the theme from *The Mission* — but it has not selected its official beverage. It might do well to choose Blackcurrant Tango, an alarmingly purple soft drink. The drink's TV advert, which has been accused of being anti-European and xenophobic, plays on the same attitudes that members of the party appear to hold.

The advert has already attracted 36 complaints concerning xenophobia to the Independent Television Commission. It features an office worker reacting to a complaint about the drink from a French student — "Johnny French". He marches to the white cliffs of Dover, where he enters a boxing ring surrounded by hordes waving Union Jacks. He then shouts, "Come on France... Come on Europe... Come on the world... I drink Tango... Come and get me!" Above him, three fighter jets prepare to assault the Continent.

Edward McMillan-Scott, the Conservative MEP for North Yorkshire, said that he was saddened by the advert. "It is symptomatic of the attitude to Europe encouraged by Britain's yellow press," he said. But Tim Devlin, MP, the vice-chairman of the All Party Group for France, found it funny. "I think the average Frenchman would like it and laugh."

The problem word is "average". Much advertising portrays the "average" foreigner. Take the Carling

Black Label advert that depicted the overweight Germans rushing to occupy the best poolside spot. They were defeated by an Englishman who bounced his towel across the pool to unfurl onto the best sun lounger. All this to *The Dambusters* theme. That advert attracted 33 complaints to the ITC.

But it is not just the Germans who are stereotyped. If our view of the French was based on adverts, then we would expect the "average" French person's day to run thus: Wake up, organise a blockade of the Channel ports — Carling Black Label. Have lunch with an absurdly pretty girl — Eurostar. Spend the afternoon not letting your daughter know about your affair — Renault Clio. For the evening, be easily placated by your daughter and son-in-law's lateness by their offer of cheap wine — Piat d'Or.

It is our view of foreigners that makes The Referendum Party's latest advert so successful. Under the words, "Meet the British Government", it shows the 20 EU Commissioners, under which is listed their nationalities. "Disgraceful," the reader is supposed to think. "These are nearly all Johnny Foreigners!"

Xenophobic adverts will never stop, but the joke is on us. Adverts that are xenophobic usually sell foreign goods. We buy those goods. We may laugh, but it is Johnny Foreigner who gets our cash.

GUY WALTERS

We may laugh, but the joke is on us

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'I felt that I had met my destiny'

Ellen Schwamm can still remember in vivid detail the day she first read anything by Harold Brodkey. It was a short story about helping his adoptive mother to come to terms with dying. Ellen, who was grieving for her father, was affected so powerfully by it that she felt compelled to write to him.

"I couldn't imagine what to say, so I wrote: 'There doesn't seem to be anything to say but I love you. Please never stop writing.'"

That was more than 20 years ago and Ellen, then a middle-aged, middle-class New York housewife and mother of three, did not feel sufficiently brave to post it. Brodkey, after all, was already a controversial figure of some renown, regarded by some as one of America's greatest living writers, and by others as an amusing fraud, on the ground that his output — a collection of short stories and articles — was exceptional but slender.

Ellen tucked the letter in her desk drawer and read and re-read *A Story In An Almost Classical Mode*, "shaking my head and trying to figure out how he did it. It touched me so much, it reached me in places I had never been touched before."

When the chance came a few years later to meet the author, she resisted. "I had read everything he had written by then, I was such an ardent admirer, but I didn't want to spoil the cerebral image I had of him."

By this time she had forged a minor literary reputation of her own, writing a first novel which received favourable reviews. Along the way she had become friendly with three people who were also friends of Brodkey's and who were insistent that she should meet him.

Eventually she gave in to curiosity and agreed to meet Brodkey at one mutual friend's Madison Avenue bookshop. Two weeks later she left her husband for him.

It was a fusion both physical and metaphysical. They were together 17 years, until he died of Aids in January this year. Faced with this century's most

A middle-class, middle-aged New York housewife gave up everything to be with the writer Harold Brodkey, who died of Aids this year. Interview by Sandra Parsons

shameful disease, he reacted in classic Brodkey fashion, with an article in *The New Yorker* entitled "To My Readers". It began: "I have Aids."

Although openly homosexual for long periods between the end of his first marriage in 1960 and his subsequent marriage to Ellen in October 1980, he was, he said, surprised, because "I have not been exposed since 1977..."

Does Ellen believe that? "Harold always told the truth and if he had wanted to have an open relationship he would have said so. He didn't sink around, he was very courageous always. We were together 17 years but we were never apart. We finally decided to go to separate gyms at some point because we were never out of each other's sight. Although of course if you want to be unfaithful there is always an opportunity. But in fact there is no way either of us would, we wanted to be together and we trusted each other, although for people who have no experience of fidelity it will be impossible to convince them."

It is hard to imagine anyone being unfaithful to her, least of all Brodkey, whose lyrical account of dying is dedicated to "Ellen, my light..." and is an unbearably moving testament to their love.

At 62, she is a beautiful woman, graceful and straight-backed in a perfectly cut black trouser suit. Formidably strong, there is also a wisdom and gentleness there. It is impossible to better Brodkey's description of her: "A fine-boned tyrant who looks a bit like a small Garbo."

She never doubted she had done the right thing in leaving

her husband for him. "I felt I had met my destiny. Most of us live in a fictional universe, you tell yourself stories all day long, and that was the way I lived up until I met Harold, who didn't have a fantasy life. He was the only person I have ever known who really lived in the present moment."

"When you come across a person like this with whom you negotiate each minute, you can't say to such a person, 'what future do we have?'

because he will say, 'how do I know?', which is the truth. He won't say, 'we'll be together until the day we die'. Harold wouldn't do that polite lying. And so I felt I just had to be with him and I didn't ask how. We just did it. I think my children understood — two were in college and one still in high school — although they were very upset. But as it turned out I think they have profited deeply from knowing Harold, who was a very profound influence."

Brodkey was hard work but Ellen did not mind. She looked after him in every way, running the house, editing his writing, freeing him to think and to create. He had spent 29 years writing his first novel, *The Runaway Soul*, constantly revising it in his search for perfection. It made him the reported inspiration for Jay McInerney's character Victor Propp in *Brightness Falls*, whose "reputation grew with each book he failed to publish."

When *The Runaway Soul* was finally published, in 1991, it received mixed reviews. Salman Rushdie hailed it as "an epic of the interior world... worth a hundred safe little well-made books", while one



"Most of us live in a fictional universe, and that was the way I lived until I met Harold. I had to be with him. I didn't ask how. We just did it"

American critic concluded: "Death would have been a smarter career move."

Ellen, however, had no doubt that her husband possessed a huge talent, and voluntarily put her own literary career on hold to dedicate herself to his. "He needed an inordinate amount of care, he spent all his time thinking and writing. He wanted an intellectual companion and I was his editor. I couldn't carry his language in my head and write my books as well, but in life we all make judgments and his work was more valuable than mine, that was my decision."

When she learnt he had Aids she assumed tests would show she was HIV-positive, too. "I had to wait ten days to find out but I felt certain that I would be, so we decided we would straighten our affairs and then commit suicide together and not burden anyone with this nightmare. And then when I discovered that I was negative I was not as happy as I thought I would be. I was kind of horrified, but then relieved, because it meant I could take care of Harold and that he could have a civilised death and some dignity."

We often said it's not so terrible. He didn't rage against dying. He never said, why me? Ever. He said to me, 'I'm 62 and I never expected to live this long. Don't look away, death is maybe the greatest adventure of all. Let's do this with our eyes open. Just watch in awe, watch me as I die and learn, see what it's like.'

"I said, 'it's easy to be strong now, it's after that it's going to be difficult because I can't imagine a life that doesn't include you being here.' He said: 'I'm not going to leave you, and you know it. I am going to be around.' And he is. I'm not a mystic, I'm not New Age, but I feel very keenly the quality of energy that was his, and I recall him. It's enormously comforting."

It took him almost three years to die, which might seem a prolonged agony, but in fact, says Ellen with gentle solemnity, they were profoundly happy.

"When you are living out final things you can put aside the pettiness of life. It focuses you incredibly on each other and you live in a cocoon of sorts, with nothing but thoughts of great beauty and great emotion around you. Before he was ill Harold was always calling me to look through the window at a

wonderful sunset and I'd say, 'yes, very nice', but now we would lie stretched on the bed holding hands, really seeing. It created a kind of profound happiness that I have not experienced before. The only thing I can liken it to is when my children were born."

He died at home, while Ellen was asleep — which she did only between midnight and dawn. "I wanted to be with him the moment that he died,

but I sort of knew it was going to happen when I was asleep in the other room because Harold was so perverse always. He died at five in the morning. The nurse came rushing in and said she had waited two or three seconds but there was no next breath. I went in and kissed him, and held his hand for a bit. He died of wasting so he was extremely thin. He looked like a Roman emperor on one of those coins,

his face was very stark and very beautiful and very knowing."

She continues to live in their Manhattan apartment, editing his work for a book of short stories. "But I am not completely miserable. It was awful, but I emerged with more strength because Harold showed me that dying is part of living. It was a privilege to care for someone who was dying so courageously. Of

course I am lonely from time to time. In 62 years I never met anyone else who could match up to this man and I don't expect to ever again. The hardest thing about living alone is there is no one there to tell you the truth. But I had it for a while and I am grateful, more than you can know."

● This Wild Darkness: The Story of My Death, by Harold Brodkey, published by Fourth Estate on November 11, £14.99

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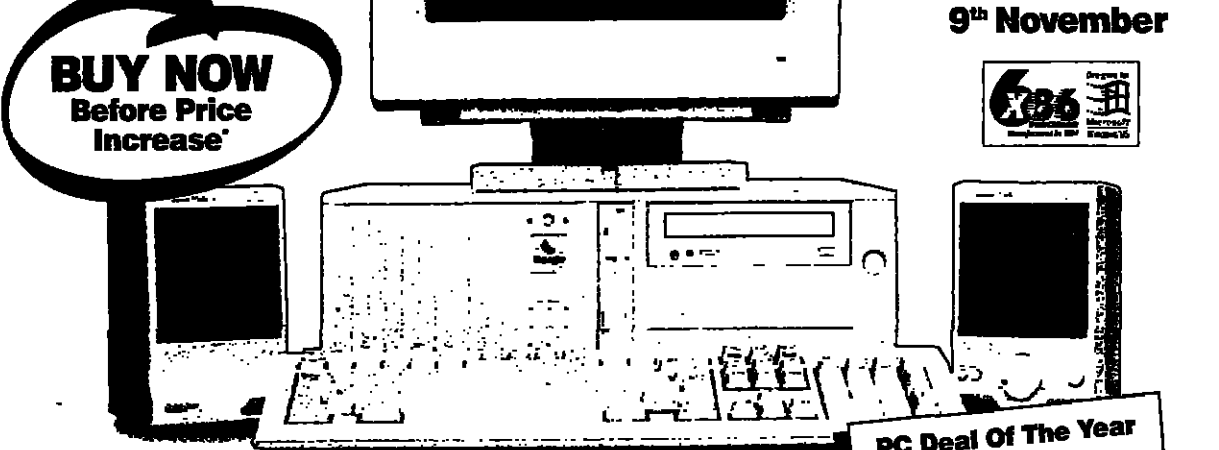
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REVIEW: Tomorrow



■ THEATRE
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West Yorkshire
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A Perfect Ganes
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



■ POP
Branching out: the
Screaming Trees
come pounding
into London for
an Astoria gig
GIG: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



■ DANCE
Darcy Bussell
stretches her
limbs as Covent
Garden stages *The
Prince of the Pagodas*
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

Leaving it to the music

DOUG VARONE has done rather well for himself on the occasion of his British debut, landing a place in not one but two London festivals. Dance Umbrella showcases the cutting edge of contemporary choreography from both Britain and abroad; the South Bank's *American Independent* celebrates America's "maverick" artistic voices. Unfortunately, Doug Varone and Dancers scores poorly on both counts.

The programme the American brought on Friday consisted of four works set to the kind of music that has served

DANCE

Doug Varone
Queen Elizabeth Hall

other choreographers well. But where they have responded to musical specifics with an equally specific dance language, Varone seems content to let the music do the work for him, churning out a succession of derivative choreography that amounts to little more than movement accompaniment. And since all the music was taped, the potential for exciting our ears, if not our eyes, was greatly diminished.

The bill opened with *Aperture*, a trio (set to Schubert's *Moments Musicaux No 2*) whose movement dynamic grows from a whisper to a wave but leaves no lasting impression. *Motus*, for four dancers to Mozart's *Esultate, Jubilate*, is fluid, loose and voluble, but glides prosaically across the consciousness.

Varone himself took the stage for a duet with Gwen Welliver. In *Thin Eyes*, which uses Michael Nyman's *Noises, Sounds and Sweet Airs*, the style staccato, the movements broken up into their component parts, the dancers, like mechanical dolls, trying to solve the puzzle of articulate physical communication. But this, like everything else, fails to advance a strong argument.

John Adams's *Fearful Symmetries* has been a gift to choreographers. The score's forceful punctuation, its momentum, its spaciousness and suspense all give dance-makers much to go on. Yet Varone's *Rise* has none of the edge and energy of Adams's wonderful music. What we get instead is a *chi in overdrive*.

DEBRA CRAINE

POP: Dubstar support Erasure's greatest hits tour in Glasgow; verbal putdowns from BabyBird; and no-frills blues-rock from Reef



Erasure at Glasgow's Barrowland ballroom: "It fell to Andy Bell, a natural performer and flamboyant gay icon, to provide the dramatic interest"

Journey into the past

Neil Tennant of the Pet Shop Boys, a band which sparkly synthesizer trio Dubstar evoke in their more inspired moments, once remarked that one advantage of being pop rather than rock is not having to prove you can perform live. This is a lesson which these taciturn northern newcomers seem to have taken to heart.

Not that opulent tunes such as *Disgraceful* and *Not So Manic Now* lost their lustre in the grand hall of Glasgow's Barrowland ballroom on Saturday; they merely failed to connect with the crowd. Then again, perhaps Dubstar's bewitching mix of lurid melody and sharp lyrical melancholy simply proved too subtle for devotees of Erasure's brash populism.

Yet even Erasure themselves seem to be losing their grip on popular taste nowadays. Top ten regulars for the past decade, they have recently found themselves squeezed out by the rise of

Oasis-style guitar rock on one side, and younger teen-pop acts on the other. With their last two albums proving to be largely hit-free, left-field affairs, this odd couple have taken the most dangerous step any pure pop band can take: they have grown up, trusting in their fans to mature with them. Sadly, it appears the fans want their old Erasure back.

Hence this greatest hits tour, which could be viewed as a salvage operation on the duo's flagging career. Not that singer Andy Bell or computer boffin Vince Clarke are making any secret of their reduced circumstances — they have, after all, christened this "The Tiny Tour". Which indeed it is: their last nationwide jaunt, in 1992, packed out venues five times larger than this with a huge Broadway-style production.

The Barrowland's show, in contrast, ran to two backing singers and a tacky set reminiscent of *Top of the Pops*

Erasure
Glasgow

in the early 1980s. So it fell to Bell, a natural performer and flamboyant gay icon, to provide the dramatic interest. This he did, though his fake, hairy chest and lumbering ballerina moves were more pub stripper than pop superstar. And while durable party anthems such as *A Little Respect* and *Victim of Love* were glowingly received, their presentation seemed laboured and haphazard. Most jarring of all was Clarke's electronic message board, which flashed the somewhat desperate suggestion "clap along if you like" during the duo's sombre new single, *In My Arms*. Few heeded his advice.

For the set's mid-section, Bell squeezed into a shiny, satin ballgown while Clarke abandoned his machines for an acoustic guitar. But the subsequent parade of largely faceless torch songs was, no pun intended, a drag. After that, fortunately, it was back to

the hits. Bell changed costume once again and the pair unleashed a volley of surefire crowd-pleasers, including the swooning *Oh La Amour*, the romping *Chains of Love* and the soaring *Blue Savannah*. Here Erasure delivered a stream of simple, memorable hooklines and gushing, gospel-tinged harmonies. Significantly, though, most of these compact mini-operas date from their early albums, giving this heroic final sprint the slightly shop-soiled air of a rock reunion show.

Erasure will always entertain, and they retain a huge backlog of goodwill thanks to their unforced, common touch. Their imminent new album may even solve their current career crisis with a return to mainstream chart success. But there is a limit to how long even the most affable of bands can rest on their laurels before becoming a nostalgic cabaret turn.

STEPHEN DALTON

Steve's flying fur and feather land

WHEN You're *Gorgeous* climbed to No 3 in the singles charts, it transformed BabyBird's Steve Jones from a cult figure into one of the unluckiest stars of 1996. Until recently, BabyBird's celebrity was confined to Jones's Sheffield bedroom, where he wrote and recorded 400 songs in the space of six years. But they and he went almost completely unnoticed until he hit upon the DIY notion of releasing five limited edition albums in 12 months. Now signed to a major label, BabyBird's "official" debut album, *Ugly Beautiful*, was released last week.

You probably do not have to look much further than the album's title to find the secret to BabyBird's increasing appeal. Neither Jones nor the rest of his band looks like an obvious pop star. However, there seemed to be something about their big, burly figures that appealed to their Camden audience; it also allowed Jones to hurl a barrage of abuse at whomever he cared to, out-staring and outswearing anyone who dared to heckle him.

Of course, Jones's verbal putdowns are an essential part of BabyBird's careful

BabyBird
Electric Ballroom

cabaret — a kind of Mike Flowers Pops fronted by the most recent *Prime Suspect* hero, the Street. When he sang the lines: "I'm like a bad day on your good, good night" from the band's first hit single *Goodnight*, he not only gave the audience one of the two songs that many of them had paid specifically to hear, but also set the agenda for the entire evening.

During the next hour, Jones watched the audience lap up his insults and his ridiculously catchy songs and, by the encore, he was sashaying triumphantly across the stage, singing "I don't need you", any intended irony left well and truly behind.

Returning to the stage for a second time to do the early single, *Lemonade Baby*, Jones sang the line "I'm so lucky, just like Kylie", in the tones of a man who has spent years waiting for his Warholian moment and is determined to enjoy every last second of it.

ANN SCANLON

Durable formula

Reef
Kilburn National

THERE is a strand of raucous, no-frills, British blues-rock that is often thin on the ground, but has never entirely gone away. The genre was invented by Free in 1968. Three decades and one anagram later, we have Reef.

Hailing from the West Country, and currently enjoying their biggest hit yet, with their single *Place Your Hands*, Reef play a bit faster than Free and don't really go in for guitar solos, per se. While their lyrics do not exactly tag them as a group of deep thinkers, and their look is unlikely to become associated with any fashionable trend, they are one of those underserviceable acts that could go mega at any moment, but will always thrive securely enough on their own terms.

On stage they have a "guest" keyboard player, tucked away in the shadows, discreetly fleshing out the arrangements, but otherwise they stick to the generic lineup of guitar, bass, drums and vocals. Watching Reef go through their paces makes you realise just how durable this ancient formula has proved to be.

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FILM

Good history, good propaganda, or just good cinema? **Michael Collins** comes to Britain
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

BOOKS

Without Consent is Frances Fyfield's disturbing new mystery, about the hunt for a rapist
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Saturday

JAZZ

Top saxophonist John Harle teams up with Elvis Costello at the Festival Hall
GIG: Saturday
REVIEW: Monday

MUSIC

... while Michael Tilson Thomas brings his San Francisco orchestra to the Barbican
CONCERT: Sunday
REVIEW: Next week

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

The first quarter-century

Rodney Milnes sees Thomas Allen celebrate 25 years at Covent Garden in a revival of *Don Giovanni*

Two quarter-century anniversaries converged at Covent Garden on Friday: 25 years of the Midland Bank Proms, and Thomas Allen's 25th year with the Royal Opera — this *Giovanni* was his 400th performance for the company. There was no hint of nostalgia in Jeremy Isaacs's presentation speech: there are plainly another 25 years left in the ever-youthful Allen, or as many as this great and generous artist cares to give us.

And I trust the Midland Bank Proms, one of the most enlightened acts of sponsorship, will continue *ad infinitum*. In 1971 the very principle of sponsorship was in its infancy. Colin Davis's joint musical directorship of Covent Garden and the BBC Symphony Orchestra gave birth to the idea, and the first ROH Prom was in fact given as part of the Albert Hall series. The expense of removing the stalls seats and admitting 700 Prommers at 50p a throw was too much for the house to carry even in those days of comparatively generous subsidy; a sponsor had to be found.

Those present at *Boris Godunov* on July 26, 1971, will never forget it. No one quite knew how this weird experiment was going to turn out, least of all Boris Christoff in the title role. But the football-crowd roar at the curtain-call after the Coronation Scene surprised even that old trouper, whose eyes opened as wide as saucers: the rest of the performance was simply electrifying. And so on, for 25 years: near eye-ball-to-eye-ball contact between the best that opera and ballet can offer and an unstuffy audience thirsty for that best.

The list of Allen's achievements could easily take up the rest of this notice, but mustn't: not just his Mozart roles, his Budd, his Pelléas, his Onegin, his Posa, but his smouldery Patroclus in *King Priam*, and just about the creepiest Melor ever, decked out in a red-sister wig and Burne-Jones nightie in the memorable Peter Hall *Tristan*. And he should give masterclasses in

career management, having taken on new roles like Beckmesser and Don Alfonso at just the right moment, and adding two more next year: Morone in *Palestrina* and the Baron in *Chérubin*. The future beckons.

Don Giovanni remains one of his great parts, and the joy of Friday's performance was its utter freshness: you would never guess that he has been singing the role for 20 years. He was in marvellous voice, caressing *La ci darem* and the Serenade as only he knows how, and his subtle lighting of the "black" — literally — Schaal production is all to the good. He remains a cold-blooded psychopath, but one with moments of humour and poisonous charm: his autopilot eroticism farewell to Donna Anna, which gives the game away, chilled the blood.

But this was no one-man show: the rest of the cast was superb. Anthony Rolfe Johnson sang the first lines of both Ottavio's arias quite exquisitely, and went on from there. Felicity Lott, every note spot-on, made Elvira daffy and lovable, despite shortness of temper with her maid, Lucio Gallo's young, clever Leporello was fascinatingly unconventional. The Icelandic bass Tomas Tomasson made a notable house debut as Masetto and forged a riveting partnership with Alison Hagley's spitfire Zerlina: this marriage will be extremely eventful. Robert Lloyd was the practised Commendatore, and Yvonne Kenny, while vocally not one of nature's Donna Annas, sang with characteristic musicianship.

The one disappointment was Dietfried Bernst's conducting, which fell between two stools: not the briskeness we expect in Mozart nowadays, but gentle Viennese tempos of which he and the players failed to take advantage in matters of nuance, weight and rhythmic accent. It all sounded a bit ironed-out, with the music-dramatic surface of the score barely ruffled.



Thomas Allen in the title role of *Don Giovanni*: "the joy of his performance was its utter freshness"

Creativity of the outsiders

Hilary Finch reports on a festival celebrating the contribution Jews have made to Viennese artistic life

Vienna 1900. "There was no place," wrote the writer and collector Stefan Zweig, "where it was easier to be a European." And nine-tenths of what the world celebrated as Viennese culture was, he pointed out, "a culture promoted, nurtured, or in some cases even created by Viennese Jewry".

It would have been easy to celebrate the golden *Jugendstil* world of Schoenberg and Klimt, of Otto Wagner and Wittgenstein, of Freud, Kraus and Schnitzler. But the Festival of Austrian-Jewish Culture, organised by the Austrian Institute in collaboration with the Bnai Brith Jewish Music Festival, and taking place in London until November 24, is very much about the present and the future, about issues at the heart of our own *fin de siècle*.

Jewish culture is experiencing a resurgence in Austria's capital. No one is talking about a renaissance of Vienna 1900 but, as Harry Weber's photographic exhibition at the Austrian Institute shows, there is quite a buzz. What accounts for the tenacity of Jewish culture in what has been, in its time, a virulently anti-Semitic city? Chaim Eisenberg, the Chief Rabbi of Austria, points out that it is not so much Viennese Jews who have clung to Vienna, as the constant influx of immigrants which has reinvigorated the community's cultural life.

Emil Brix, the director of the Austrian Cultural Institute who initiated the idea for the festival, emphasises the plurality of Viennese culture. For him, plurality and persecution are two sides of the same coin. "Only with the creative ten-

sion of a city like Vienna, with its fusion of cultural traditions, can something truly innovative be born. And with it, of course, come all the problems of others feeling estranged and threatened by something foreign, something difficult. People prefer to be comfortable in their culture. This has never been possible in Vienna."

The festival's wide-ranging, month-long programme of concerts, theatre, cinema, symposiums, literary evenings and exhibitions explores many of the paradoxes within this plurality. It is all very much a personal mission for Brix who, as a student in the early 1980s, "felt conscious of how conservative, how provincial Vienna had become. We felt Vienna had to change, and such change was not possible from within, but only from trying to recreate old bonds. And most difficult, of course, was the bond with the Jewish people — because we Central Europeans had killed the Jews."

Both Eisenberg and Brix are optimistic about the future, despite the rise of the far-right Freedom Party, which won 28 per cent of the vote in the recent Austrian elections to the European Parliament. "It's scary, but it's not a threat," Eisenberg says. "If the Freedom Party gets a million votes, we're not talking about a million Nazis. We must see things in a balanced way."

Brix says his country is facing the biggest challenge since the turn of this century. "We can and must change this plurality from something dangerous to something creative."

For more details about the Festival of Austrian-Jewish Culture, telephone 0171-638 8891

CONCERTS: A new Peter Maxwell Davies premiered; a Swedish soprano caused a sensation

Model modernity

SCO/Davies
Edinburgh

STRATHCLYDE is dead: long live the Strathclyde Concerts. Although the local authority which commissioned the project no longer exists, the first nine of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's concertos for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra have already achieved hundreds of performances between them. The tenth and last, introduced to the world by the SCO under the composer's direction in Glasgow and Edinburgh last week, will add significantly to the total.

One reason why Strathclyde Concerto No 10 should gain ready acceptance is that, without being excessively difficult, it is well calculated to display the virtuoso potential of a small orchestra. Subtitled *Copertino* for Orchestra, it adheres to a modern tradition most familiarly represented by Bartók's late masterpiece which, along with Schoenberg's Chamber Symphony Op 9, was clearly a model for the new work.

I have my doubts about the long-term durability of the perky little tune which emerges on piccolo near the beginning of the last of the three movements. What saves this finale is not so much its

heroic timpani part as the slow moving undercurrent which surfaces in the middle and which remains briefly exposed at the very end after the festive activity has died away.

At the end of a concert in which Sir Peter Maxwell Davies conducted also a bustling account of Haydn's Symphony No 23 in G and Arve Tellefsen both directed the orchestra and played the solo part in an efficient performance of Mozart's Violin Concerto No 10 was well received by the audience in the Queen's Hall. Having observed the series of concertos come together over the past nine or ten years, they were no doubt happy to find that the once troublesome dislocation between the material and its treatment in these works has at last been resolved in a score as frank about its romantic inclinations as it is successful in realising them.

GERALD LARNER

Swedish passion

LSO/Chailly
Barbican

IN THE second of his London Symphony Orchestra concerts, Riccardo Chailly tackled Wagner and Schoenberg. In Act 1 of *Die Walküre* he proved a less than perfect Wagnerite, but that hardly mattered: every other aspect of Thursday's performance paled next to the Siegmünde of the young Swedish soprano Katarina Dalayman.

Dalayman possesses what must be the most natural Siegmünde voice around. She poured out streams of sensuous tone, from gleaming top to a mezzo-like lower register, and brought the essence of Siegmünde's character to life, communicating her awakening passion with a mixture of radiant poise and excitement.

The rest of the LSO's mini-

cast was solid. Wolfgang Schmidt's tenor tended to set at a throaty, abrasive forte, but he is a genuine Siegmund. At first a little hectoring, he settled down to sing with power, and showed musician-ship in the quiet opening of his *Winterstürme*. The Norwegian bass Gudjon Oskarsen was in resonant voice as Hunding, but his carefully

sculpted singing deprived the character of much of his menace. Chailly seemed content to give a concert performance of the score, without dramatic urgency to make it sound like the first act of a great opera. He drew excellent playing and favoured big orchestral sound, and it was only towards the end that he managed to raise the emotional temperature.

Wagner to early Schoenberg is a small step, and even Chailly's *Verklärte Nacht* sounded a little cool and calculating. The LSO strings played with luminosity, allowing Chailly to shape a cogent account which flowed from darkness to light.

JOHN ALLISON

Son rises in the West

Henry IV
Parts 1 and 2
Oxford Playhouse

ONE of the pleasures of these plays is watching the tricks of the playwright's craft mirror the political cunning of the characters. Hal's playful denunciation of Falstaff while acting his father, for example, prefigures his actual denunciation with the inevitability of night following day.

Stephen Unwin's production for English Touring Theatre relishes the paradoxes, and adds a significant one of its own in having real-life father and son (Timothy and Sam West) play surrogate father and surrogate son (Falstaff and Hal). We are first shown the king (majestic Gary Waldhorn) with old-fashioned pomp and grandeur at court, and then his son cavorting with thieves in Eastcheap. But from the first, Hal's reserve, even in the middle of a great joke,

marks him as Henry's son rather than Falstaff's. The clarity of Unwin's production is admirable both for communicating a plot full of historical complexities and for the actors' speaking voices (only a few of the minor characters are difficult to hear). Unwin's approach is conventional, almost old-fashioned, in order to allow Shakespeare's verse and the actors' skill to stand alone.

But what the production gains in clarity it loses in fun. Even in their most seemingly carefree days,

Falstaff's gags lack hilarity. Perhaps it is that the production takes a hard moral line on Falstaff, or perhaps West is taking a back seat to allow his son to shine (which he does). His performance is always excellent but almost too understated. Pamela Howard's enchanting designs and Paule Constable's exquisite lighting sketch in the numerous locations to maximum effect. When Hotspur (a disappointing Paterson Joseph) meets Glendower he does so under a starry sky with a few cushions and a sheep-skin thrown down around a fire — a romantic setting for a rebel conference. With Corin Buckeridge's uplifting behind-the-scenes music, they brighten up even the dullest stretches of this Shakespearean marathon.

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Matthew Parris



■ Because we are masters of all we survey, we forget how our dominion is likely to end

Anyone who has stood at dawn among the fortifications of Machu Picchu in Peru will understand the little shudder which follows. To feel the confidence that breathes through the handwork of any great civilisation now wrecked is to pause and wonder about the final prospect for our own.

News emerged last week that carbon-dating of the hull of a Greek ship sunk off Turkey suggests a technological and cultural sophistication in existence 3,300 years ago — long before we had supposed. A *Times* leading article rejoiced at the find. But why rejoice? If other civilisations reached so high so early and came to nothing, what hope is there for ours?

In a speech made years ago, Chris Patten remarked (I recount the passage from memory) that if a spacecraft visiting our planet in the centuries before Christ had touched down in China, its captain would have encountered a highly developed culture: a people with an ordered system of government and a fine body of recorded knowledge and achievement: cultural, technical, mathematical, legal and scientific. Why, they had even invented gunpowder. They made better fireworks — sadly — than they do now. Such people must have felt themselves to be masters of their universe, lords of creation.

If the same spacecraft had then touched down in Britain, it would have encountered a few savages daubed in mud. On what rational basis, Mr Patten mused, could our space visitors have concluded otherwise than that the Chinese had established an irreversible lead? Were they not within sight of domination of their planet?

When Daniel O'Connell, an Irish Catholic, ridiculed Disraeli's Jewish ancestry, the MP snapped back: "Yes, I am a Jew, and when the ancestors of the Right Honourable gentleman were brutal savages in an unknown land, mine were priests in the temple of Solomon."

The repost squashed O'Connell, but it provokes a more reflective thought: how had Solomon's kingdom (if not his people) vanished? We shrink from articulating it, but I think we believe — we certainly act as though we believe — that our own command is now unlikely ever to be lost. That is not to say we do not enjoy the frisson of apocalyptic discourse, or that we never tremble at the possible consequences of our own sheer strength: global warming, ozone depletion, nuclear holocaust... these are real fears; but we believe ourselves capable of preventative action.

Nor is it to say we always approve of the way

our civilisation is going. We diagnose moral ills, quail at unwelcome trends in society. But to bewail what our world is coming to is different, though it may not sound different, from an honest belief that it is coming to an end. Few act as though they believe that.

Why not? If Solomon's temple came down; if the Sumerians and the Egyptians faltered; if the Greeks came to naught; if Rome fell; if China reverted; if the Incas imploded; if the strange towers and fortifications you will find in the Zimbabwe ruins so overshadow the primitive culture which was encountered squatting in their shade, why should we prove unprecedentedly different?

Do we think that even if empires rise and fall (as the British Empire did), there is an underlying, unimpeded progress, because an empire can only be superseded by a superior empire? This consolation is simply not true. The Romans yielded only to a dark age. Chinese civilisation did not so much yield as crumble.

Looking back on the ruins of other civilisations, what hope can we see for ours?

able, the Incas had already passed their zenith when Spain struck. In every case, much that had been learnt was simply lost — forgotten — obliterated. Or do we imagine there is a point in human progress which, once passed, makes retreat impossible — that none of these previous civilisations had gained a sufficiently complete mastery of their world to entrench themselves in the way that we suppose "Western civilisation" now has?

I suspect this is what we do think: that we know so much, and can do so much, and have recorded our knowledge so indelibly, that even if we were defeated in battle by another power, our conquerors would simply inherit our capabilities, stand on our shoulders and carry on. Predecessor civilisations never lit, with their small candles, more than a corner of the engulfing darkness; the candles could be blown out, and were. But our electric lighting, we think, has flooded so wide a space that the only question left is who occupies it. Nobody, we think, could turn off the lights. Nobody could forget how to generate electricity.

That may be true. I only remark that to a Chinese emperor, a Roman Caesar, or an Andean Sun King, the world must have looked like that too. What he could see, being all he could see, must have seemed very extensive. The confidence of each, in turn, proved wrong. How likely is it that our own is right? How likely that we — unlike the captain of that ship sunk off Turkey, loaded with ivory, jewellery and precious metals — can have the least idea of where the rocks ahead may lie?

Tony Blair says new Labour's task is to provide opportunities — and see that they are taken

Towards a decent, responsible society

Today we announce the results of the Labour Party's ballot of all its members on the draft manifesto. It is both our covenant with the British people and our covenant with ourselves.

The document describes itself as "unhesitatingly and uncompromisingly" new Labour. It affirms support for the radical changes within the party, and the belief that it is possible, by stripping away outdated ideology and applying traditional values in a modern way, to forge a new programme for British politics.

It goes into greater policy detail than any opposition party has done before, and makes it clear that we will stand for election as new Labour and govern as new Labour.

Contrary to the arrogant assertions of many on the Right, the rebirth of the political Centre and Centre-Left is not just about accommodating the thinking of the Right. It is, in part, a recognition that we have entered a new phase of political debate and development.

There has been a revolution in the world of work. There is far greater awareness of the global nature of the economy and the competitive challenge that this poses. There has been a reaction against rampant individualism, the atomisation and division of society, the narrow self-interest that characterised the 1980s and helped to fracture our society. The quality of life people enjoy is not determined only by the wage-packet, but by whether their children can play safely in the park, whether they can walk in the streets at night, whether the environment is polluted and whether elderly relatives are properly cared for.

The public is also more acute than the Conservative Party about the country's economic performance. A trade deficit with Europe despite a 20

per cent devaluation of the pound, the doubling of public debt so that we now spend more in interest payments than on defence and law and order, and our still low levels of productivity are fundamental problems as yet unresolved.

The world over, parties of the Centre-Left are articulating a new approach, and many see new Labour as leading the way. Economic policy is based on understanding and embracing the global economy, a commitment to financial stability, and advocacy of an economic role for government — not state control or corporatism, but the equipping and preparing of people and businesses for economic changes, by education and infrastructure.

I reject the claims of pessimists who say the next century will be the era of Asia. We have the potential to create a new age of achievement in Britain. The key is education. It will be my priority in government. We have lived for too long with a system good for the few but not for the majority. That is why we have made clear and detailed proposals for smaller classes in infants' schools, the linking of every school to the information superhighway, more and better nursery education integrated with childcare, home-school contracts, broader A-levels, new standards for head teachers, reform of teacher training and funding for

higher education, as well as a University for industry to help adults to learn new skills and so earn more.

We are also reaching for a different way to define and implement the notion of a modern civic society. This is where the so-called "morality" debate in British politics is located. Reading the papers of the past few weeks, I have been struck by how depressingly difficult it is to conduct such a debate in Britain. Immediately, there is an attempt to say that politicians talking of these things are "jumping on the bandwagon" or "trying to govern private morality". Yet in our draft manifesto, written months ago, we say: "We require a moral purpose and direction presently lacking. We reject tolerance, but extreme libertarianism. We need principles of conduct and governance by which we can construct a modern civic society. The essence of it is rights and duties going together."

More extraordinary still was the briefing from the Conservative Party in Friday's *Times*. Given poll evidence that Labour is ahead on these questions, the Tories respond by saying "We'll drop them, then. It's the economy from now on." Two weeks ago, the fractured society was the key theme of the Queen's Speech; now it is dropped. And they accuse us of being cynical and driven by polls!

The idea of a new social morality

is not a lurch into nostalgia or Victorian hypocrisy. We do not want to return to the old prejudices about sex, sexuality or the role of women. Neither do we believe that supporting the family means attacking lone parents, the vast bulk of whom have endured the pain of divorce or separation. The idea is to create a decent, well-ordered and stable society for today — a modern view of citizenship. And government can help.

No decent society can exist with an underclass set apart from the mainstream. To rebuild communities we need to provide opportunity and to demand responsibility. Children should grow up with an expectation of quality in education, irrespective of wealth, yet 56 per cent of 11-year-olds are now below the required standard in English and Maths. Young people should not be left on the dole after leaving school, yet there are 600,000 under-25s presently unemployed. One in five non-pensioner homes in Britain have no one working at all. Too many inner cities are derelict. Without hope, we will never reach responsibility.

There must be a comprehensive attack on crime and its causes, instead of a search for easy headlines. At every level, we have proposed

reform — juvenile offending, drugs, knives and firearms, crime prevention, prison reform, dealing with anti-social neighbours. A month ago I suggested that every government department should review its policies to see how they promote strong families. We know that the stronger the family, the better a child's life chances are. Employers have a responsibility too to see how they can help men and women to balance family and working lives better, by looking at the hours and ways they work. And we can develop partnerships to rebuild civic bonds. David Blunkett recently set out details of a citizen's service for "millennium volunteers", young people devoting time to work for others.

All the way through, we are seeking to balance opportunity with responsibility as the only basis for a modern welfare state, recognising that we have a collective duty to help those at the bottom of society, but insisting also that those offered help have a duty to take it. We recognise that although we continue to spend large sums of public money — £300 billion this year — we are not asking radical questions about how to spend it to best advantage. We are trying to construct new rules, new principles to govern our relations with each other that are right for today.

There have been three phases in 20th-century politics. In the first, people believed that progress would be achieved by bigger government. In the second, there was a reaction against this in the name of the individual. In the third, we seek to create a society which acknowledges mutual rights and duties, not to hold back the individual, but as a necessary part of individual fulfilment. I don't pretend we have all the answers, but at least we are asking the right questions.

Has Blair this much flair?

Peter Riddell says Labour has more to prove than America's Democrats



British politicians are in danger of misinterpreting tomorrow's American elections. Bill Clinton's imminent re-election is already being seen as a portent of a Labour victory next year. But the Blairites are wrong to believe that Clinton's strategy is sufficient for success here. Equally, the contrarian view of Tory strategists — that a Clinton win is good news for John Major — rests too much on economic determinism to be convincing. My impression from nine days in America is that a Clinton victory would be more ambiguous and possibly more transitory than will be claimed on Wednesday.

Transatlantic comparisons are often treacherous. In 1992, the Right drew comfort from Mr Major's victory in April, only to have their hopes dashed when George Bush was swept from office in November. The differences were greater than the similarities. Now, it is too easy to say that Clintonism equals Blairism. Of course there are close parallels — both in campaigning techniques, such as the single-minded refusal to be pushed "off message", and in the centrist strategy of abandoning past "liberal" or left-wing positions and making only limited promises. But the political context is not the same.

Mr Clinton is, after all, an incumbent. While Mr Blair is a challenger. One has to warn against change, while the other has to win support for it. Mr Clinton's expected re-election rests on the strength of the economy, a sense that America is on the right track, and on the mistakes of the Republicans. Helped by the shrewd monetary management of Alan Greenspan, Mr Clinton can claim credit for cutting the budget deficit.

The President has had the crucial advantage of creating fear about his opponents. The House Republicans under Newt Gingrich overreached themselves after their great victory of two years ago. Their revolutionary rhetoric and intransigence during the shutdowns of the federal government last winter enabled the Democrats to portray them as extremists threatening Medicare health programmes and social security pensions. Speaker Gingrich has become a bogey. These fears have been aggravated by Bob Dole's inability to present a coherent alternative to Clinton. Some of his remarks are baffling to anyone living outside Washington.

So a Clinton victory would be confirmation of the status quo. Brian Mahoney and Danny Finkelstein, who heads the Conservative research department, drew some comfort on a recent visit to Washington. Rising living standards do in time affect

hidden on Monday

voting intentions, so the Tories should adopt their own version of the Democrats' 1992 refrain "It's the economy, stupid". The Tories also believe they have a sharper line of attack on their opponents — "New Labour, New Danger" — and more distinctive positive themes, such as the "opportunity for all" proposals for education and welfare, than Mr Dole has offered. The Republican experience offers warnings for the "slash and burn" Right in Britain. Attempts to roll back government will not succeed if they provoke fears about popular programmes, in turn making voters sceptical about promises of big tax cuts across the board.

More *sotto voce*, the Tories say that sleaze does not seem to have damaged Mr Clinton. His success four

years ago in surviving such charges has created a protective shield. No one regards him as a saint, but the attacks over Whitewater have been seen as heavily partisan. However, more recent charges over dubious, and possibly illegal, foreign contributions to his campaign have made an impact in the last few days, narrowing Mr Clinton's poll lead and boosting Ross Perot. A re-elected President Clinton could face a series of very damaging investigations into his conduct in office.

The Tories' problem is that, unlike Americans, British voters do not yet give credit to the party in power for the economic recovery. And, after 17 years in office, the Conservatives are much more vulnerable than Mr Clinton to a "time for a change" appeal.

Mr Clinton has not relied solely on optimism about the economy. The campaign speeches that I heard him

deliver were just as much about what government can do to promote national renewal — through expanded training, high technology and strengthened families, through proposals on school discipline, and banning tobacco advertising for the young. He has successfully put forward a programme of family values and morality by making it specific and not threatening. He may have rejected big government, but he still believes in small-scale activism, the government as regulator and initiator. That is very like Mr Blair. But they both face tight fiscal constraints. Mr Clinton has accepted budgetary guidelines which would severely constrain his pledges to focus on education, technology and law enforcement. The only alternative is the kind of large outburst in Medicare and other entitlement programmes that he and the congressmen — Democrats have opposed throughout the campaign.

Consequently, Mr Clinton's mandate will be greatly qualified — especially if, as looks increasingly likely, the Republicans narrowly retain control of one House of Congress or both. The elections will not resolve any of the arguments about the scale of government. The drive to redesign the welfare state has stalled, rather than stopped. The reaction against the Gingrich revolution has shown the limits of what is achievable in the short term. But necessary reductions in the costs of Medicare and social security have only been delayed. More striking are the many state and local initiatives all over America on welfare reform and promoting choice in schools, even in previous Democrat strongholds in big cities.

The elections are therefore likely to have a double-edged significance for Mr Blair. Bill Clinton's tactics work, but the strategy is essentially defensive and rhetorical — talking of "building a bridge to the 21st century" but making only micro-promises. Unlike the President, Mr Blair not only has to counter the Tories' asset of a strengthening economy, but has also to show how Labour would really make a difference — to establish the case for change. He has to take more risks than Mr Clinton.

Tory history

FIRST we were led back to basics, then into clear blue water. Now here comes the newest Tory theme which is expected to be carried through to the general election: Britain in the 1950s is like England at the end of the 17th century.

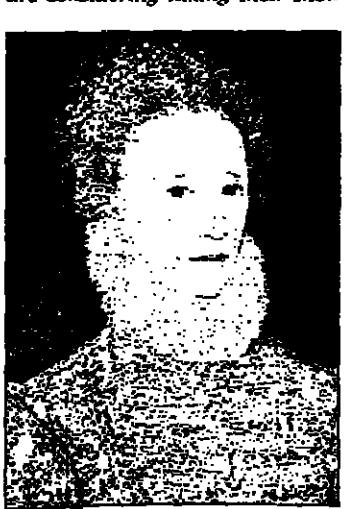
The theory, which will be cropping up in ministerial speeches from the middle of the month, is this: in the time of Queen Elizabeth I, England was a pioneering, buccannering nation from which Sir Francis Drake, Sir Walter Raleigh and others of their kind set off round the world to trade, loot and generally bustle in a spirit of free enterprise.

Now we are enjoying another Elizabethan age, this time under Queen Elizabeth II. Investors, businessmen and extravagant fashion designers are the new Drakes, Raleighs and Sydneys. The rhetoric, of course, has mildly Euro-sceptic undertones.

This idea is said to be the product of Foreign Office history buffs, who believe that if the Tories are to evoke earlier centuries, Elizabethan initiative is more attractive than Victorian morality. "Expect to hear a lot about this," says one

senior government adviser. "We think we might really strike a chord."

Italy and its European neighbours should take cover. The anonymous two fat ladies of the cookery programme, who have just finished their first series, have been encouraged by viewing figures and are considering taking their show



Elizabeth: Tory role model

to the Continent on the route of the Grand Tour.

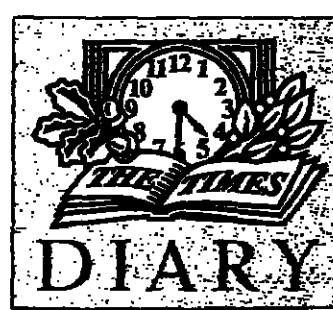
Extra jog

STAFF AT the Royal Geographical Society are putting clothes-peg on their noses now that Sir Ranulph Fiennes has announced that he will be going on another Antarctic expedition. He has again agreed to donate his underwear to the society on his return.

A geographer recalls the last time: "When Ran gave us his smalls they were a bit grubby, but he had worn them for about four months. It took us many washes to get them sparkling clean for display here along with the sledge and skis. "Most recently we sent his underwear to Hull for an exhibition of clothing, though they could probably have walked there on their own," he says with nose wrinkled. "We are looking forward to getting a more up-to-date pair."

Basta!

DAVID "Egghead" Willetts, the Prime Minister's favourite guru, has acquired a new nickname. His friends are calling him O.J., in reference to next week's forthcoming television "trial" over his con-



troverial memo concerning the MP Neil Hamilton.

The Paymaster General himself, however, seems unfazed by proceedings. He is still busy picking holes in Labour's anti-Tory slogans. With reference to the latest, "Enough is enough," he says sathily: "I think they mean 'Sufficient is sufficient.'"

Fir do

WITH WOOLLY hats and snow-boots, apple-checked foresters have been trudging through conifer woods outside Oslo to select the Trafalgar Square Christmas tree presented annually by Norway to Britain as a token of friendship.

The news fits Terry Wogan, the chirpy Irish broadcaster, with dread. Last year he performed a

live broadcast of the felling ceremony in driving sleet to raise money for Children in Need. "I was in the hands of the British Embassy," he tells me, by way of explanation for his sufferings. "A senior consul was driving me to the tree-cutting ceremony where a large crowd and a choir were waiting. He got lost in the busy traffic of downtown Oslo — two hand carts and a wheel barrow. He didn't have a map or a phone and he hadn't a clue where we were going."

The diplomat finally delivered our hero to his destination a couple



"I want a word about your uniform, Biglin"

of hours into the broadcast. The choir bravely sang an encore and the tree was finally felled by frost-bitten foresters as Wogan talked the audience through the ceremony. He is not repeating the exercise this year: "No, I'm taking my listeners to Hell — apparently it's also in Norway."

Table talk

WHILE Diana, Princess of Wales was wowing Australia last week, the Prince of Wales discreetly hosted a most glittering event at St James's Palace on Thursday for the tenth anniversary of SANE, the mental health charity of which he is patron.

Majorie Wallace, the chief executive, says: "We had four ambassadors including United Arab Emirates and Russia, four European crowned heads and a host of chairmen of international companies. As it was Halloween, I told everyone that the trick was that they had to pay £5,000 per table and the treat was that they would be able to listen to Lesley Garrett, the opera singer."

JIM CARREY, America's highest-paid film star, popped into London last week on Concorde with 11 friends to perform a recording of



Jim Carrey: amused

Beatles songs. The highlight of the trip was not his £3,500-a-night suite in the Lanesborough Hotel, but a romantic dinner he witnessed at the next table at San Lorenzo, a favoured dining haunt of the rich and royal. Carrey had a retreat when smooch turned to argument and the lady emptied a bottle of red wine over her companion's head.

P.H.S



EUROPE'S RASH PROMISES

Pensions are another reason to stay out of monetary union

Will British taxpayers end up paying for the pensions of the Germans, Italians and French? This was the provocative question raised last week by a report of the Commons Social Security Committee on the immense deficits of state pensions schemes in the future European monetary union. There are three separate questions involved in this complex issue. First, is the pensions problem really much more serious in continental countries than it is in Britain? Secondly, are continental countries likely to do something to solve this problem in the next few years? Thirdly, will joining the single currency expose Britain to Europe's unsustainable pension costs?

On the first question the answer is clear. According to calculations published in May by the International Monetary Fund, in order to meet their present pensions promises, the German and French Governments would both have to increase their taxes by 3.4 per cent of GDP (equivalent in British terms to £25 billion annually or 11 pence on the standard rate of tax). In Britain, by contrast, the gap is a negligible 0.1 per cent.

There are, however, numerous mechanisms by which governments can wriggle out of their promises on pensions. These are not legally-binding obligations comparable to repaying government bonds. State pensions can be reduced, indexation can be limited and retirement ages can be raised, as they have been in Britain. But it is likely such reforms will be implemented as decisively in Continental Europe as they have been since 1979 in Britain. There is no sign in Europe of a major change away from paternalist welfare thinking of the kind that occurred in Britain with the election of Margaret Thatcher, and still less of the tough leadership she displayed. And none of the continental countries, apart from Holland, has anything like the private-sector pension funds built up in Britain in the post-war decades. Continental workers would thus suffer greater hardship than Britons if

their state pension schemes were whittled away. Furthermore, with low rates of inflation, it may not be sufficient to reduce the indexation of future pensions. Pension payments may actually have to be cut over the years in cash terms. This is a reform from which even a leader of Baroness Thatcher's willpower might have flinched.

It does seem plausible, therefore, that continental governments will meet pension promises by raising taxes and engaging in more government borrowing. How, then, would Britain be affected? Higher government borrowing would tend to push up interest rates by increasing investors' fears of inflation. These fears would partly offset the supposed anti-inflationary credibility of the new single currency, and thus the hopes that Britain would have lower interest rates in EMU than outside.

An even more direct threat would arise from the pressure in Europe to pay for pensions through higher taxes. High-tax countries could step up demands for tax "harmonisation" across Europe. They might accuse Britain of "social dumping" if it undercut them with low rates of tax.

The key question is whether Britain would be more vulnerable to such pressure if it joined the single currency. The answer must be yes. By joining EMU, Britain would be forced to accept the German-inspired fiscal "stability pact". This would, for the first time, give Brussels direct power over national fiscal policy, backed up by huge fines. Although the present stability pact covers only fiscal deficits, it concedes the principle that fiscal policy in general is a "matter of common concern". Just as the loss of national control over money is leading through the stability pact to the loss of control over fiscal policy, so the stability pact will lead inexorably to meddling by Brussels in national policy on tax. From there it will indeed be a short step to Britons paying higher taxes because of the extravagant promises made in Europe on pensions.

THE HEBRON BARGAIN

Arafat and Netanyahu cannot afford to play for time

The Middle East has not lacked visitors this weekend. On Friday, Yasser Arafat returned from a European tour to talk with Russian Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov. Nelson Mandela has embarked upon his first tour of the region. Malcolm Rifkind held meetings with both Benjamin Netanyahu and Mr Arafat yesterday and stressed that Britain regarded all West Bank settlements as illegal. Thankfully, the British Foreign Secretary avoided the shameful posturing that Jacques Chirac raised to new heights.

The tourists have arrived at a critical time. The intensive efforts of the United States, which started with the Washington summit at the beginning of this month and continued for three weeks under the State Department mediator Dennis Ross, remain unrewarded. Israel and the Palestinian National Authority have still failed to produce terms by which the majority of Hebron will be transferred from Israeli control as initially agreed under the Oslo accords. In the absence of any agreement, tension in the territory itself grows ever sharper. The death last week of Hilmi Shousha, an 11-year-old boy allegedly killed by the security chief of a Jewish settlement, came close to triggering a renewal of the violence that led to more than 100 deaths barely seven weeks ago.

Both sides have traded accusations over this impasse. Mr Arafat entered negotiations insisting that he would not change "a letter or even a comma" of the agreements signed with the previous Labour Government. He has blamed Mr Netanyahu's assistance on new security arrangements for the failure to confirm matters. The Prime Minister has blamed the Palestinians for delaying the dialogue, accusing Mr Arafat of

exploiting international sympathy and awaiting the end of the American election season that might allow President Clinton to take a harder line with the Likud leadership.

None of this will do either man any good. For all their hot language, Mr Arafat can make no progress towards a genuine Palestinian state without the co-operation of the Israeli Prime Minister, just as Mr Netanyahu needs the Palestinian leader to prevent the arrival of anarchy on his eastern frontier. While the short-term temptation for the two camps is to prevaricate, maximising tactical advantage and manoeuvring for public relations premium, they run the risk that events in Hebron itself will run away from them. That city still has more than 400 heavily armed, and not easily appeased, Jewish settlers surrounded by over 100,000 aggrieved Palestinians whose loyalty to Mr Arafat is being seriously strained by the activities of Hamas.

From all accounts, the essence of a final settlement is in place. Mr Netanyahu has won the right to station troops on the hills overlooking the enclave in Hebron in return for dropping his previous demand that the Israeli Army would have the power of "hot pursuit" through the city as a whole. That is a reasonable compromise. The agreement has been held back by disputes over planning and transport authority in the portion of the city that will remain under Israel's command. Failure to complete the bargain is more political than procedural. While the respective parties posture, there is a real danger that the force of events in the streets of Hebron will rise up and consume them all. Playing for time assumes that time exists. Recent experience would suggest that there is no such luxury.

POETRY OF REMEMBRANCE

Words for a week in which we all remember war

Warfare arouses the most primitive and extreme emotions. Man has always struggled to articulate and synthesise these convulsive waves of feeling, and wars have therefore occasioned more enduring literature, especially poetry, than almost any other human activity. Down the centuries poetry has been used to rally, inspire, warn and comfort nations racked by the horrors of war. From Homer to Wilfred Owen and on to the ugliness and atrocities of the war in Bosnia, poets have grappled with the extremes of pride, anguish and disgust.

A masterful new Faber anthology of war poetry, compiled by Kenneth Baker, brings together not only the stately and inspirational verse composed by established poets but the huge range of writing in which ordinary men, and occasionally women, recall their lives, comrades and emotions in the face of danger and sudden death. The Conservative MP and former Home Secretary gleams from multifarious sources the memorable, the mediocre, the comic, tragic and obscene.

Over the coming week *The Times* will publish a selection of these poems to mark Armistice Day. We have been closely associated with many of the conflicts that gave rise to this poetry: it was our correspondent William Russell who told the horrors of the Crimean War; and *Times* dispatches from the trenches of

Flanders, the deserts of North Africa, the appalling sites of liberated Nazi chanel houses and, in the past four years, the no less terrible suffering in the killing fields of Rwanda and Bosnia have brought to our readers something of the cataclysm from which war poetry is born. It was in *The Times* that Laurence Binyon first published "For the Fallen", the lines now indelibly associated with Remembrance Day. And we are vigorously supporting the movement to restore the Silence as a true, nationwide commemoration on November 11 not only of those who fell for Britain in two world wars, but all the 108 million people estimated to have been killed this century in war.

Mr Baker's anthology reminds us that in earlier times war was seen more heroically. It evoked high-minded patriotism, nobility and selflessness, qualities that are powerfully present in most of Shakespeare's use of war to define the history and kings of England. For all our revulsion at the brute killing we know to be the essence of combat, who cannot but be inspired by the *Iliad*, the *Aeneid* or Henry V's appeal to his soldiers on St Crispin's Day? The very mingling of such conflicting emotions in conflict is what gives war poetry its resonance and its enduring ability to shape our views of ourselves, our ancestors and nation. *The Times* will be remembering our debt and our heritage in the poems of the coming week.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Stepping across a moral 'wasteland'

From Ms Leslie Morphy

Sir, We at the Prince's Trust have followed the debate triggered by Frances Lawrence (letters, October 23, 25, 29, 31; November 1, 2) with immense interest. We are attempting to build some stepping stones across what can be a wasteland of unemployment, low expectations and motivation for many young people. Your leading article of October 26 eloquently recognised some of this work.

We believe that through our programmes young people can develop skills and personal qualities and become more self-sufficient while learning to work with others. But reaching the most disadvantaged is extremely difficult.

It requires co-operation between agencies and the provision of creative opportunities which are attractive to young people and their sponsors. It also requires much longer-term support than is often available through training schemes or community projects.

Many of the most vulnerable young people have little access to long-term support, financial or human. They need a critical friend or adviser; someone who can help them exploit and develop their talents over months and years rather than weeks.

We have developed such support in our training courses and in helping young people to set up small businesses and our evidence suggests that it is part of the solution to disadvantage.

In the context of a wider debate about active citizenship it may also provide some useful markers to directing the talents and goodwill of the majority towards those most at risk.

Yours sincerely,
L. A. MORPHY
(Policy Director)
The Prince's Trust,
18 Park Square East, NW1,
November 2.

From the Chaplain of
St Peter's College, Oxford

Sir, May I, as a bystander belonging to a sister church, take issue with Lady Sidmouth's criticism (letter, October 31) of the Catholic bishops and what I believe to be her misuse of the saying about God and Caesar.

There are of course fields of expertise belonging to different professions and "specialities", and bishops who comment on economic issues deserve to be criticised if they show ignorance or misunderstanding of economic theory and its application.

However, the notion that there are spheres of activity not subject to theological evaluation has in the past had disastrous consequences when the Church has been faced with social questions requiring analysis and guidance. In any case the principle is not applied consistently.

Why should it be thought that the Creator God is any less concerned about human dignity and the treatment of the weak in the field of economic than in other processes? Lady Sidmouth accepts that the bishops are qualified to give advice on the morality of abortion, although they are not gynaecologists.

Jesus's return to those who tried to entrap him into giving partial political advice is designed to make us confront our proper responsibilities to Caesar and to remind us that everything in this world is God's, and therefore potentially a matter for theological reflection, moral decision and conscientious action.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER JONES,
Chaplain and St Augustine Fellow,
St Peter's College, Oxford,
November 1.

From Mr L. L. Blake

Sir, Mrs Whitman is right to say (letter, November 1), about the so-called "statement of shared values" (report, October 29), that she trusts no one seriously expects children to learn such stuff by heart. "Where's the force of expression to move the readers?", she asks.

The one formulation which can easily be learnt by heart comprises the three moral precepts of Justian (Institutes, 1.1.3): to live honestly, hurt no body, and to render to everyone his due.

That last one might prove difficult, but it might give them food for thought.

Yours faithfully,
L. L. BLAKE,
271 Lonsdale Road, SW1,
November 1.

Musical composition

From Professor J. D. M. H. Laver,
FBA, FRSE

Sir, Professor Alexander Goehr and colleagues (letter, October 22) take the Humanities Research Board of the British Academy to task for not accepting musical composition as coming within the scope of the board's schemes for postgraduate studentships at MA and PhD level. They also suggest that the board failed to consult practitioners in the field in reaching this decision.

In fact, the board asked the National Association of Music Staff in Higher Education (Namshe) to consult its member institutions on this specific matter, and Namshe received replies from 31 of these.

The board considered Namshe's comments very carefully. It fully accepts that musical composition is a de-

NHS trusts need more than money

From Dr Peter Lewis

Sir, Dr Ben Timmis and his London colleagues (letter, October 25) rightly draw attention to the urgency of the need of NHS trust hospitals for more money. The question of where this money should come from — from the Government in the form of additional funding, or from within the NHS by way of reallocation — is equally pressing.

Earlier this year the Anti-Rationing Group — a group of senior health professionals who believe the NHS to be sufficiently funded, so long as prices are controlled — conducted a survey of the purchasing data of eight of the nation's then 120 health service purchasing commissions.

Of the seven which provided data, two did not know what they spent on emergency care; among the remaining five the proportion of the hospital and community care budget spent on emergency care ranged between 22 and 42 per cent. Such variation is beyond the margin of rational explanation.

These allocations, particularly in the low-spending commissions, are more likely to be the consequence of spending decisions elsewhere than the outcome of a deliberate policy regarding emergency care. There is therefore a strong likelihood that a significant amount of emergency-care underfunding is the consequence of less than satisfactory purchasing practice.

Perhaps NHS trusts finding themselves in this difficult situation should first find out whether these circumstances apply in their local situation, and then satisfy themselves that there is a local policy which can be rigorously justified. Purchasing commissions should also satisfy themselves that trusts have already taken all available means to contain their costs.

This view is not presented as a criticism of NHS reforms, without which it would have been impossible for us to carry out our analysis. Present arrangements for purchasing may not

have achieved their purpose; but the principle of the separation of purchaser and provider functions is the most important and far-reaching development in the NHS since its inception. It must be preserved if the NHS is not to be superseded by private medicine.

Yours sincerely,
PETER LEWIS (Spokesman,
The Anti-Rationing Group),
c/o Department of Epidemiology and Public Health,
Wales College of Medicine,
Heath Park, Cardiff,
October 25.

From the Chief Executive of
Manchester Health Authority

Sir, May I point out to my health service colleagues in London that the easy answer to operational difficulties is always more money. The harder solution is to critically review how existing resources are used and whether professional staff can deliver more effective and efficient services by working differently.

Manchester, which has arguably the worst health overall in England (some ten years behind that of the rest of the country), received no additional resources to develop new health services in the current financial year, and funds are, of course, as urgently needed here as elsewhere.

However, considerable innovative and positive changes have been made by the city's health services in order to meet the year-on-year demand for healthcare. This has been done primarily by reviewing and changing the way services are provided. One of the results is that additional money has been made available for emergency services.

Yours sincerely,
NEIL GOODWIN,
Chief Executive,
Manchester Health Authority,
Gateway House,
Piccadilly South, Manchester,
October 28.

War memorials

From Ms Jo Darke

Sir, Your issue of October 28 brings good news of a campaign to save neglected war memorials and, in separate reports, of two other admirable restoration projects at Castle Howard and at Gatton Park; and your leading article, "Cradle to grave" urges the educationally valuable involvement of local schools and groups in caring for neglected memorials.

What standards will apply to the proposed uses?

The National Inventory of War Memorials, the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association and a number of other groups have independently devised conservation guidelines. However a single, recognised body is needed to impose conservation standards and to harness the admirable enthusiasm of volunteer groups to nationally recognised conservation procedures.

Inappropriate treatments will spoil a work of outdoor art or craft as effectively as and sooner than years of neglect.

Yours truly,
JO DARKE
(Chief Executive, Public Monuments and Sculpture Association),
72 Lissenand Mansions,
Lissenand Gardens, NWS,
October 29.

Millennium Wheel

From Mr David Marks

Sir, It is a common misconception that the Eiffel Tower was originally intended to be temporary (letter, October 28).

By a contract dated January 8, 1887, between the French State, the City of Paris and Gustav Eiffel, the tower was to operate for a 20-year period after the closure of the Universal Exhibition of 1889.

The British Airways Millennium Wheel, like the Great Exhibition's Crystal Palace, is designed to be easily dismantled; unlike the Eiffel Tower, which is not — its 10,100-ton construction being connected by 2.5 million rivets.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MARKS
(Managing Director),
The Millennium Wheel
Company Ltd,
50 Bromell's Road, SW4,
October 29.

From the Director-General
of the Imperial War Museum

Sir, We entirely endorse the concerns expressed in your letter of October 28 about the condition of war memorials and the importance of preserving this aspect of our heritage for future generations. We believe, however, that the key to successful preservation lies in the accumulation of accurate records of all memorials in the British Isles.

To this end, a national research project was initiated in 1989 by the Imperial War Museum and the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England. A new archive has been created with information, including details of their condition, on over 25,000 war memorials. This has been possible with the help of volunteers and parish councils.

We hope to complete the transfer of information to database and increase public accessibility within a year, although many inquiries are already being dealt with. In response to these, we are about to publish a booklet, *The Conservation of War Memorials: Guidance Notes*, which will assist in the devising of a proper conservation strategy by providing expert contacts.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT CRAWFORD,
Director-General,
Imperial War Museum,
Lambeth Road, SE1,
October 29.

Prune recalled

From Dr I. D. Heath

Sir, The obituary of Bill Hooper (October 28) reminded me of an anecdote which I heard in 1956 while on National Service in BAOR.

The CO of the local British military hospital had a framed Pilot Officer Prune cartoon in his office. It was noticed by one of the German civilian clerical staff who, on being informed of its nature, replied: "Ach so! Graf Bobbi!"

"Graf Bobbi", so I was told, had returned very late from a bombing raid with virtually empty tanks and a full bomb load. When asked why, he said he had been delayed by engine trouble and that when he had reached the target "the All Clear had sounded".

Yours sincerely,
I. D. HEATH,
Copley Gate, Copley Lane,
Halifax, West Yorkshire,
November 1.

Historic dating of oldest shipwreck

From Dr Stuart W. Manning

Sir, Your leading article of October 28, "The first shipwreck", refers to the amazing finds from the Uluburun shipwreck in the eastern Mediterranean, and the precise dating of this wreck from a piece of firewood found on board.

The preciseness of the dating is indeed amazing. The last preserved ring on this firewood, the bark, belongs specifically to 1316 BC, and there can therefore be no doubt that the ship sailed and sank in that year or shortly afterwards.

The Uluburun wreck provides a unique snapshot of life and material culture in the eastern Mediterranean in the last two decades of the 14th century BC. None of the usual vagaries and approximations is called for.

The 1,503-year absolute tree-ring chronology used to establish this dating clearly marks the beginning of the end of pre-history in the eastern Mediterranean as having occurred more than 4,000 years ago.

Yours sincerely,
STUART MANNING,
University of Reading,
Department of Archaeology,
PO Box 218, Whiteknights,
Reading, Berkshire,
October 28.

From Mr Clive Thomas

Sir, Your reports today highlight some of the luxury items which have survived from about 1316 BC. They included elephant tusk, tortoise shells, ostrich eggs and firewood.

John Massfield must have been present when he wrote of the quinquagenary of Nineveh: "With a cargo of ivory / And apes and peacocks / Sandalwood, cedar wood and sweet white wine".

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE S.J. THOMAS,
Hillside House, Wrotham, Kent,
October 28.

Fishing policy

From the Minister of State for
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Sir, I am surprised that Emma Bonino, the European Fisheries Commissioner (letter, October 28), should accuse the UK Government of past inertia on the decommissioning of fishing vessels [see also letter, November 1].

For the period between 1993 and 1997 we have committed a total of £53 million. So far this has resulted in 430 vessels being scrapped. A further 167 have been selected under the 1996 scheme.

Moreover, losing these boats has a real impact on local fishing communities. For example, this year alone, North Shields and Newlyn will lose seven and four fishing vessels, respectively.

Everyone recognises that action needs to be taken to tackle the problems of overfishing and the UK fishermen have been playing their part. But the European Commission cannot be surprised if the UK fishermen are so frustrated when the Fisheries Commissioner describes all the recent reductions in their fishing fleet as "inertia".

Yours faithfully,
TONY BALDRY,
Minister of State,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food,
Whitehall Place, SW1,
October 28.

From Mr John Ashworth

Sir, The letter from Emma Bonino was accurate in at least one respect: it referred to "the current European fleet". The total integration of the member states' fishing fleets into one EU fleet has meant the sacrifice of the British fleet to make way for newcomers with large fleets but few fish.

While this integration is taking place, there will be no conservation. This is because those who conserve will reap no benefits: they are the next ones to be thrown out of an industry most British fishermen have been in for generations.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ASHWORTH,
Save Britain's Fish,
Kirby Mills Industrial Estate,
Kirkbymoorside, York,
October 29.

Is Sid at home?

From Dr John Laws

Sir, I have received by post an invitation from British Telecom to "update my Friends and Family calling circle". To help me do this they enclosed a list of five numbers "based on a recent phone bill".

Four I recognised as those of family or friends, but the fifth had me stumped. It was certainly not in my personal telephone/address book.

Intu-gued, I phoned the number, to be greeted by a recorded voice: "This is British Gas. We are sorry we cannot take your call at the moment. If you have a query about your account please press button 1. If you ... etc."

Until then I had never really considered British Gas as friend or family.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LAWS,
5 Frank Dixon Way,
Dulwich, SE21,
November 2.

Sport letters, page 38

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 2: The Prince Edward, Trustee, this morning attended The Duke of Edinburgh's Award London Regional Conference for Award Leaders at the Barbican, London WC2.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 2: The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior, the Order of St John, accompanied by The Duchess of Gloucester, visited the St John Eye Hospital, Barnet, Herts. The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester attended a luncheon at the St John, Westfield.

Later Their Royal Highnesses visited the Transvaal St John Headquarters, Braamfontein, Johannesburg, and subsequently departed for Durban. In the evening, The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester attended a reception at the Durban Club, Esplanade, Durban.

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Royal engagements

The Princess Royal will open a new faculty of arts building at Basingstoke College of Technology, Woking Road, at 12.10, will open a YMCA residential centre at Eastway Way, Basingstoke, at 2.10, and will visit the Mary Rose, HMS Naval Base, Portsmouth, at 3.30. Later, as President of the Royal Naval Museum, will visit the museum at 7.30 and attend a reception and dinner on board HMS Victory.

Princess Margaret will open the Omega Factory, the first development on the new Capital Park Industrial Estate, Thorne, Doncaster, at 11.10.

Nature notes

Pochards from the Continent are arriving on lakes and gravel pits throughout Britain. They are small, lively ducks, with dark red heads and soft grey backs; they dive by taking a leap forward, and feed underwater on the seeds of submerged vegetation. Grey mallards are peering on the edges of lakes, and also by leaf-clogged ditches and even large puddles; they are named after their grey back, though their breast is a brilliant yellow. Siskins and redpolls are swinging in the alder trees, feeding on the seeds in the black cones; they are sometimes joined by gold-

Birthdays today

Mr C.J. Bacon, headmaster, Dean Close School, Cheltenham, 59; Dr Jean Balfour, former chairman, Countryside Commission for Scotland, 69; Mr Walter Cronkite, American broadcaster, 80; Lieutenant-General Sir Hugh Cunningham, 75; the Earl of Denbigh and Desmond, 26; Lady Dugdale, a Lady-in-Waiting to the Queen, 73; Mr Russell Evans, company chairman, 74; Professor A.J. Forty, former Principal, Stirling University, 68; Mr R.A. Henderson, former chairman, Kleinwort Benson Group, 79; Viscount Hereford, 64; Mr Elgar Howarth, musician, 61; Professor Jeffrey Jowell, professor of public law, 58; Air Commodore Philippa Marshall, former director, WRAF, 76; Mr Michael Meacher, MP, 57; Professor Joseph Rotblat, physicist, 88; Air Commandant Dame Anne Stephens, former director, WRAF, 84.

Service dinner

Ayrshire Yeomanry Association Major R.Y. Henderson, Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran and Honorary Colonel of the Ayrshire Squadron of the Scottish Yeomanry, presided at the annual regimental dinner of the Ayrshire Yeomanry Association of Officers, serving and retired, of the Ayrshire (Earl of Carrick's Own) Yeomanry held on Saturday at Yeomanry House, Ayr. Colonel Sir Bryce Knox was the principal guest.

Dinner

Association of Managers in General Practice Mrs Jackie Maun, Chairman of the Association of Managers in General Practice (AMGP) with officers and members held their annual dinner on Saturday at the Moot House Hotel, Glasgow, and welcomed the new president, Dr Keith Bolden, Deputy Director of the Institute of General Practice at Exeter University. Dr Colin Hunter delivered the third Sally Irvine lecture.

King's College, Madrid

The Council is pleased to announce that Mr Christopher Gill Leach, MA (Cantab), has been appointed Headmaster from January 1, 1997 in succession to Dr Gerald Percy who is leaving to take up an appointment with the European Council of International Schools. King's College, founded in 1969, is an overseas member of HMC.



Heb Leman, left, of the Environment Agency, and Stuart Taylor narrowing a stretch of the Test in Hampshire

Rivers narrowed to halt salmon decline

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SOME of the country's most famous rivers and streams are being narrowed to save salmon from extinction. Fisheries experts have launched a scheme to cut the width of noted salmon rivers and their tributaries in southern England in response to falling catches and a succession of dry years.

The scheme, which is being organised by the Environment Agency, increases the flow of the water at critical points as well as the levels in famous angling waterways such as the Test, the Avon and the Itchen. It is hoped that this will improve the prospects for the rivers' declining wild salmon populations as they return from feeding grounds in Iceland to breed.

Stuart Taylor, fisheries officer for the agency in Winchester, said that one of the many difficulties facing Britain's salmon is the silting of the gravels in

which they lay their eggs. Over many years cattle have broken down riverbanks, causing the gravels to become coated in as much as 18in of mud. At the same time the natural scouring power of the rivers has been badly affected as the waterways, many of which are fed by underground chalk springs, have dwindled in response to the falling rainfall of the past few years.

Mr Taylor said that without action to increase the flows by the narrowing schemes, salmon could soon be extinct in these rivers: "We are taking up the challenge a bit late. We have tried other methods, like stocking, and they have had some success. But we need to add to this if the salmon is to survive."

Fish raised for stocking are cosseted and their survival can be less than spectacular as they fall prey to the rigours of the wild. Dr Nick Giles, a freshwater fishery expert at the Game Conservancy Council at Verwood, Dorset, said: "It is difficult to produce good

thriving salmon on hatchery stock. Staying alive as a young salmon is an extremely demanding business. You are better equipped if you originate from a pair of wild salmon."

Mr Taylor added: "This is why we need to enhance the fortunes for the salmon who are already in the wild."

The narrowing has so far been carried out at 15 sites. Fencing and the planting of reed beds is also being undertaken to stop cattle breaking through and collapsing banks. The gravels are being sprayed clean with water jets.

It is hoped that the project will be extended to other sites and other rivers especially those fed by underground chalk springs. Studies on the Brandy stream at Winchester, which has been narrowed, show a big improvement in the number of part-juvenile salmon produced from eggs. Mr Taylor said: "Before the enhancement, the development of eggs into parr was 0.75 per cent. This has now risen to 28 per cent."

Glenfiddich Piping Championship

World's finest deliver a veritable feast

By ANGUS NICOL

THE Glenfiddich Piping Championship is intended to be a complement to the principal competitions — the Gold Medals at Oban and Inverness, the Braich Gorm in London, and the senior competitions — and to bring together the ten best players in the world in the two most testing events, pibroch and the march, Strathspey and reel. This is certainly done, and is always the occasion for a veritable *cuirn chail*, a feast of music from the great Highland bagpipers.

This, the twenty-third Glenfiddich Championship, held at Blair Castle as always, was such an occasion, though perhaps not a vintage year, if one is being particular.

When presenting the prizes, Mr Sandy Grant Gordon, of William Grant & Sons, expressed his gratitude and that of all participating pipers to the 10th Duke of Atholl, who died earlier this year, for the great interest that he took in

the piping and for allowing the event to be held in the castle. He also expressed appreciation for the energy and experience which Seumas MacNeill, who also died this year, had put into the event since its inception.

The ten pipers invited this year were all main prize winners during the last year. Each had to submit six pibroch and six each of marches, Strathspeys and reels, and was asked to play one of each. All the tunes chosen to be played by the judges were formidable ones, requiring, as John Burgess, the Fear an Tighe, said, great skill and learning.

The first prize for pibroch, each, together with the Highland Society of London's Trophy, was won by Roderick MacLeod, recently appointed director of piping at the new Piping Centre at Macphater Street, Glasgow. He played *The Old Man of the Shells*, a tune of unknown origin, which might be connected with distilling, since the shell

was used as a drinking vessel, or might refer to a battle at Sligachan in Skye.

The second prize for pibroch, each, went to Pipe-Major Alasdair Gillies for *The Lament for Ronald MacDonald of Morar*. In third place came Michael Cusack, representing the United States. He played *The Park Pibroch*, each No. 2, commemorating the Battle of Park in the 14th century.

William MacCallum, a former champion, took fourth prize for *ceòl beag*, with *Donald's Gruamach's March*, and Pipe-Major Brian Donaldson took fifth prize with *The Bells of Perth*. Honourable mention is also due to the other players: Angus MacCall (The Lament for Patrick Og MacCrimmon) who also took fourth prize for *ceòl beag*; Dr Angus MacDonald (*The Lament for the Laird of Anapod*); Sergeant Wilson Brown (*Rory MacLoudie's Lament*); and Jack Lee (*The Unjust Incarceration*). William Livingstone was

unfortunately unable to come from Canada to compete.

Pipe-Major Gillies also won first prize for *ceòl beag*, and the Redfern Pipe Trophy. Dr Angus MacDonald took second prize, and Roderick MacLeod took third prize.

The overall champion was Pipe-Major Gillies, who also won the championship in 1991.

Each year the Balvenie Medal is awarded to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to piping. This year's recipient was Duncan Johnstone. As he could not be present in person, his "most outstanding pupil", Roderick MacLeod, received the medal on his behalf.

Full results
Overall champion: 1: P/M Alasdair Gillies; 2: Roderick MacLeod; 3: Michael Cusack; 4: William MacCallum; 5: P/M Brian Donaldson.
Pibroch: 1: Roderick MacLeod; 2: P/M Alasdair Gillies; 3: Michael Cusack; 4: William MacCallum; 5: P/M Brian Donaldson.
March, Strathspey and Reel: 1: P/M Alasdair Gillies; 2: Angus MacDonald; 3: Roderick MacLeod; 4: Angus MacCall; 5: Michael Cusack.
Judges: Pibroch: Donald MacPherson, Angus MacCallum, Hugh MacCallum, March, Strathspey and Reel: Ronald MacLeod, P/M Angus MacDonald, Tom Speir.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Guido Reni, painter, Bologna, 1575; King William III, reigned with Queen Mary II 1689-94 and after her death until 1702, The Hague, 1650; Augustus Toplady, clergyman and hymn writer, Farnham, Surrey, 1740; James Montgomery, poet, Irvine, Strathclyde, 1771; Sir Frank Benson, actor-manager, Tunbridge Wells, 1858; Eden Phillpotts, novelist, Mount Abu, Rajasthan, India, 1862; G.E. Moore, philosopher, London, 1873.

DEATHS: Erasmus Bartholin, physicist, Copenhagen, 1698; John Benbow, admiral, died of his wounds, Port Royal, Jamaica, 1702; Charles Churchill, poet, Boulogne, 1764; Felix Mendelssohn, composer, Leipzig, 1847; Paul De la Roche, painter, Paris, 1859; George Peabody, American philanthropist, London, 1869; Wilfred Owen, poet, killed in action, France, 1918; Gabriel Fauré, composer, Paris, 1924; Manuel Azana y Diaz, President of Spain 1936-39, Montauban, France, 1940.

The Gunpowder Plot was discovered, 1605.
Nelson's Column was completed in Trafalgar Square, 1843.
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) was established, 1946.

Memorial service

Dr Alexander Ogston
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Dr Alexander George (Sandy) Ogston, FRS, biochemist, was held on Saturday at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford. Canon Trevor Williams, Chaplain of Trinity College, officiated. The Rev Dr Douglas Dupree, Chaplain of Balliol College, read the lesson and Dr Baruch Blumberg, Honorary Fellow of Balliol College, gave an address.

The Rev Dr Eric Heaton

A Memorial Service for the Rev Dr Eric Heaton, Dean of Christ Church 1979-91, Honorary Student 1991-96, will be held in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, on Saturday, November 9, 1996, at 3.00pm.

Luigi Bandini

A Memorial Service will be held for Luigi Bandini, at St George's, Hanover Square, London, W1, on Friday, November 8, 1996 at 11am.

Mr Denis Cheate

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Denis Cheate will be held at St Bride's, Fleet Street, London, EC4, at noon on Wednesday, November 6, 1996.

Michael Kalisher, QC

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Michael Kalisher, QC, at the Temple Church, on Wednesday, November 27, 1996, at 5pm.

Appointments in the Forces

The Army
Brigadier M. Williams to be Defence Adviser Pretoria, 1.1.97.
Colonel R.G. Owen to be Comd HQ 4 Div, 1.1.97.
Colonel M.B. Cooper to be Comd HQ 4 Div, 1.1.97.
Colonel M.B. Cooper to be Comd HQ 4 Div, 1.1.97.
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Royal Air Force
Air Commodore H.G. Mackay - CWOI CFS, 28.10.96.
Group Captain G.B. Bennett - RAF North Luffenham, 1.11.96.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.G. Mager and Fräken B. Kjellhede
The engagement is announced between Nicholas George, eldest son of Mr Derek Mager and the late Mrs Derek Mager, of Hove, Sussex, and Birgitta, older daughter of Mr and Mrs Erling Kjellhede, of Hellerup, Denmark.

Major M.A.C. Linaker and Miss T.V. Denbora
The engagement is announced between Major Martin Linaker, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, younger son of Major and Mrs David Linaker, of Helensburgh, and Taryana, only daughter of Mr Valera Denbora and Mrs Taryana Denbora, of Voronezh, Russia.

Marriages

Mr D.S.D. Christopherson and Miss H.V. Kison
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Mary and St Aloysius, North Yorkshire, of Mr David Christopherson, son of the late Stanley Christopherson and of Mrs Christopherson, of London, SW1, to Miss Hannah Kison, younger daughter of Sir Timothy Kison, and Lady Kison, of Middleham. The Rev David Eyles, Father Edward Corbould, OSB, and Mrs Seamus Kilbane officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by John and Victoria Biggs, George and Rupert Grace, Rupert Lambert, Indigo Moinard and Rosa Tennant. Mr Algernon Bennett was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr J.C. Christopher and Miss D.M. Southwell
The marriage took place on November 2, at the Church of All Hallows, London, NW3, between James, son of Dr Lloyd and Mrs Madrin Christopher, and Dina, daughter of Mr John and Mrs A.O. Southwell.

Mr A.O. Dickens and Dr N. Mascarenhas
The marriage took place on Sunday, November 3, at the Church of St Jacinto, the couple will reside in Melbourne, Australia.

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University news

Oxford
The Wimer Williams Law Prizes 1996: First prize: Daniel Ragan of Lady Margaret Hall; second prize: Ben McFarlane, University College.

Awards for meritorious work: Paul Greston, Christ Church; Sarah Haren, University College; Darren Upton, Magdalen College; Nathan Wells, Pembroke College. The John Porter Essay Prize 1996 has been awarded to Nerys Dawn Forester, New College. Camille Buchholz Carroll, Magdalen College, was commended.

George Webb Medley Junior Prize (S) for 1996: Daniel J. Shapiro, of Merton College, has been awarded a prize of £200.

Cambridge

King's College
Elected into a senior visiting research fellowship for one year from October 1, 1997: Georgina Emma Mary Born.

Arbitrators' Company

The following have been elected officers for the Arbitrators' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr D.A. Smith; Senior, Mr W.L. Menzies; Junior, Mr M.H. Hinton.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS
BATCHELOR - On the 29th October at UCL London to Dana (née Warner) and Ben & Amy James Batchelor.
BROOKER-TURNER - On November 1st to Alison (née Reynolds) and James, daughter, Elizabeth Octavia sister to Alexander, Lucy and Flora.
FAIRBROTHER - Floreanna Ruby Clara 29th October St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, beautiful incredible daughter to Sue and John, 1st granddaughter to Christine and Colin, 5th granddaughter to Kathleen and Neilson, 1st great-granddaughter to Constance.
LAVERGNE - On October 22nd 1996, to Linda and Kenneth, a son, Henry James Carter.
MCGRATHY - On 25th October, to Noreen and John, a daughter, Eileen Marie (née Devenport), a charming, beautiful baby, a brother for Alastair.
SMITH - On October 7th in Bangkok to Mariana and Peter, a son Lucas Alexander Xavier.
DEATHS
ALFORD - On October 29th 1996, Douglas William Edward, 74, husband and father. Enquiries H.C. Grimstead Ltd, tel 01464 294393.
CUMMINGS-MORRIS - Mervyn. See Memorial Services.
DERHAM - David, died suddenly on Tuesday 29th October, beloved husband of Crawford and proud and loving father of three. Enquiries to Mrs D. Derham, 24 Queen Square, Bath.

DEATHS
GRAHAM - Giles Henry Gibson. In service after a short illness on Tuesday October 29th 1996, aged 69, beloved husband of Gillian, daughter of James and Constance. A service to his memory will be held at St Mary's Church, Farnham, on Monday 11th November at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please. Enquiries to Mrs M. Gibson, 11th Avenue, Farnham, Surrey, GU14 7JH.

MEMORIAL SERVICES
CUNLIFFE-FRASER - A Memorial Service for Murray Cunliffe-Fraser will be held on Monday 25th November at St Michael's, Canby, at 12 noon.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE
SEALE - Harold Derrick. Happy memories of his birthday, November 4th, remembered with much love every day. Marjorie, Angela and John.
SMITH - Peter Laurence, died 2nd November 1996, much loved husband of Wendy and devoted father of Sarah, Olivia and Charles. We miss your love and laughter today and always.
MOLAND - Sarah Jane, 4th November 1990. Don Gladwin.

SERVICES
PLUMP - Patricia. National Dying Agency. If you are dying or about to die, please call 01352 718009.

WANTED
HEW COATS, for cover picture, please call 0171 529 9418.

TICKETS FOR SALE
ALL TICKETS! England v New Zealand. Enquiries to Mrs M. Gibson, 11th Avenue, Farnham, Surrey, GU14 7JH.

TICKETS FOR SALE
ALL ANNUAL Passes, all change, 1st class, 1st class, 1st class. Enquiries to Mrs M. Gibson, 11th Avenue, Farnham, Surrey, GU14 7JH.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
MARKSON Pianos. 100% of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with options to buy from only £25 per month. 0171 935 8822 NW1 0181 854 4517 SE16. Enquiries to Mrs M. Gibson, 11th Avenue, Farnham, Surrey, GU14 7JH.

SPECIALISTS
VVO should write a book. Cost: £100. Enquiries to Mrs M. Gibson, 11th Avenue, Farnham, Surrey, GU14 7JH.

CONGRATULATIONS
28 June & 28th June, 1996. Enquiries to Mrs M. Gibson, 11th Avenue, Farnham, Surrey, GU14 7JH.

GIFTS
A BIRTHDAY Newspaper. Enquiries to Mrs M. Gibson, 11th Avenue, Farnham, Surrey, GU14 7JH.

HEALTH & BEAUTY
NORMAN PATRICK. Enquiries to Mrs M. Gibson, 11th Avenue, Farnham, Surrey, GU14 7JH.

FLATSHARE
ENGLAND. Enquiries to Mrs M. Gibson, 11th Avenue, Farnham, Surrey, GU14 7JH.

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FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
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JETLINE
JETLINE. Enquiries to Mrs M. Gibson, 11th Avenue, Farnham, Surrey, GU14 7JH.

FLIGHTSEATS
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RENTALS
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ANNOUNCEMENTS
Sales at Harmers gallop ahead.
Harmers is the leading auction house in Britain specialising in the sale of stamps, postal history, mail coach paintings and related ephemera.
Demand is strong at the moment and we are always on the lookout for interesting items, visiting every part of the country to advise and value.
We are now collecting for our Winter sales to satisfy the strong demand from thousands of specialist collectors.
For further details please contact Graham Childs, David Parsons or Dominic Savastano.
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OBITUARIES

BARRY PORTER

Barry Porter, Conservative MP for Bebington and Ellesmere Port, 1979-83, and for Wirral South from 1983, died yesterday of throat cancer aged 57. He was born on June 11, 1939.

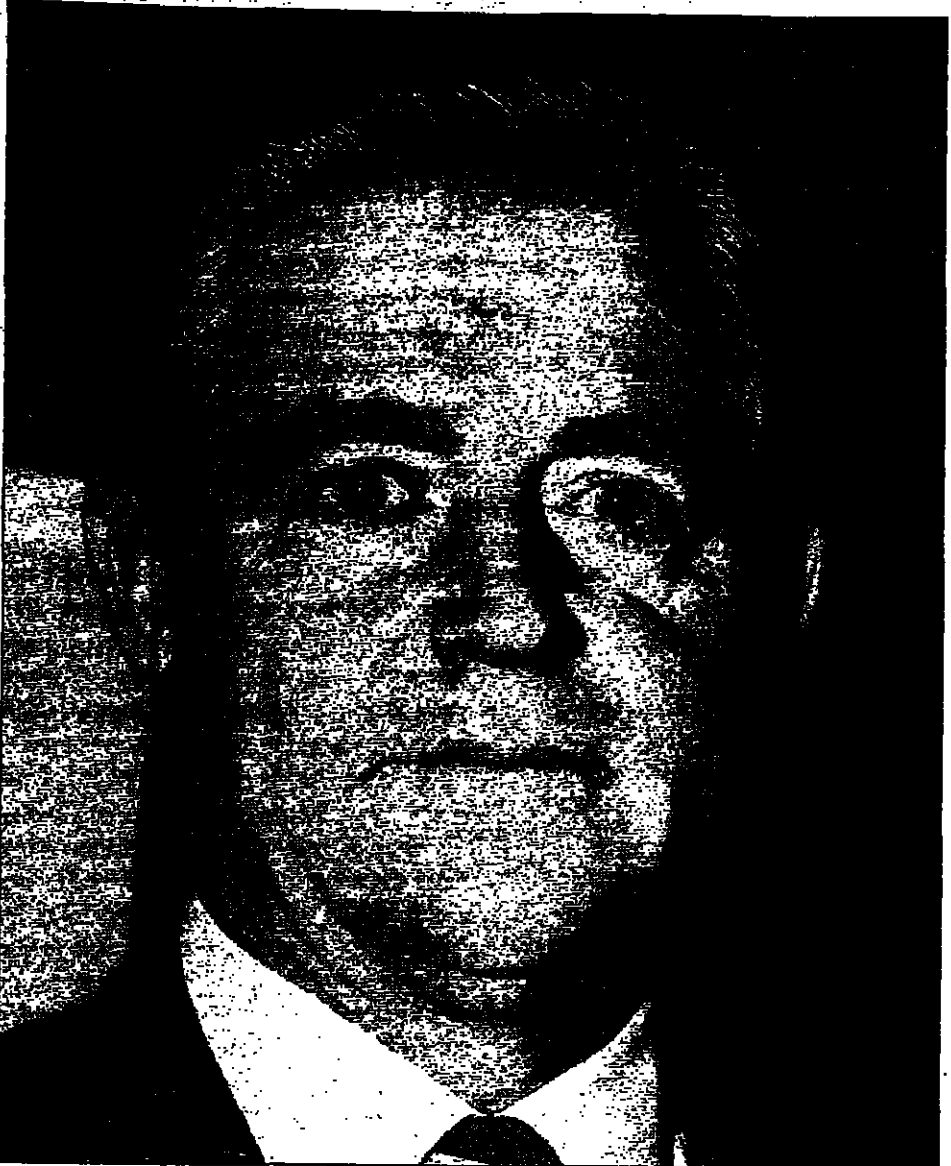
Barry Porter was the last representative in the House of Commons of that once-powerful northwestern Toryism that owed infinitely more to Protestantism and to working-men's clubs than to the gender values of southern Conservatism. This remarkable 19th-century political phenomenon, which cost W. E. Gladstone his Lancashire constituency in 1868, delivered six out of Liverpool's nine seats to the Conservative Party as late as 1959. Now it is virtually extinct.

A dominant institution in this political world in which Porter grew up was the Orange Order. When he first came to stand for Parliament in the 1970s, most prominent Tories in the North West had ceased to wear the sash with apparent pride. He, however, proudly proclaimed his allegiance, and became the last Tory candidate to be formally endorsed by the Order. Subsequently he established a new Lodge in his native Birkenhead.

In the House of Commons, where he often appeared immune both to the threats of the whips and to the advice of friends, he was one of the very few English Tory MPs to espouse the Ulster Unionist cause with both passion and conviction. In April 1981 he received an IRA letter bomb. Unperturbed, he put it in a bucket of sand, and drove it to the local police station.

He greatly deplored the Conservative Government's decision to establish a close understanding with the Government of the Irish Republic in the hope of advancing the cause of peace in Northern Ireland. He roundly condemned, and voted against, the Anglo-Irish agreement of November 1985 which embodied this policy. He believed that it created an impediment to progress in Ulster since the Unionists would never accept it. (In this he has yet to be proved wrong.)

His background gave him a robust temperament, it certainly did not make him narrow or bigoted in outlook. His closest political friend was the late Liberal Democrat peer, Lord Evans of Cloughjordan. More than once he shared



a bottle — or rather, many bottles (and numerous jokes) — with Charles Haughey, the Irish Fianna Fail Prime Minister.

Above all, George Barrington Porter regarded himself as a son of Birkenhead, where he was born into a solidly middle-class family; his father was a Liverpool businessman. He took considerable pride in the fact that he was only the second Conservative MP to be produced by Birkenhead School (the first having been the great F. E. Smith).

After graduating from University College, Oxford, with an honours degree in PPE, he established himself as a solicitor in Birkenhead, becoming a partner in the firm of Fanshawe, Porter and Hazell in 1966. He became well-known locally as a member first of the Birkenhead Borough Council (1967-74) and subsequently of the Wirral Borough Council (1975-79), chairing its housing committee (1976-77) and its education committee (1977-79).

He certainly helped to make Birkenhead a better place by securing the demolition of Oak and Eldon Gardens, a group of notorious tower blocks. He also won widespread approval for his part in the strong local campaign against the Labour Government's abolition of direct grant schools which forced Birkenhead School to go independent. Subsequently he became one of the earliest advocates of the Assisted Places Scheme.

Porter entered Parliament at his fourth attempt. He contested Liverpool (Scotland) at a by-election. In 1971, Newton-le-Willows in February 1974 and Chorley in October 1974 before being elected for Bebington and Ellesmere Port in May 1979, if only by 486 votes. As a result of boundary changes, he became MP for the new (and much safer) seat of Wirral South in 1983.

His vigorous right-wing populism — it was characteristic that he advocated both cricket and rugby tours of South Africa while apartheid was still in force — did not find an entirely comfortable home at Westminster even under Margaret Thatcher. Although he started off by admiring her, he came to feel that it was time for her to "hang up her boots", and in 1990 he emerged as one of Michael Heseltine's more surprising supporters. He survived a subsequent attempt to deselect him.

He could be a forthright and uncompromising opponent — it was claimed that he had thrown a punch at Labour's George Galloway after one late-night debate in 1988 — and his was a vote on which the Government could seldom safely depend. He rebelled over the introduction of school bus charges in March 1980 and over the pace of trade union reform, which he regarded as much too slow, in April 1980.

When he voted against the Anglo-Irish agreement in 1985, the whips told him in no uncertain terms that he had forfeited all prospect of preferment. In fact, although he certainly harboured hopes of office in the early 1980s, his forthrightness (which so often bordered on the truculent) coupled with his unpredictability, made him one of nature's backbenchers.

He did his most constructive parliamentary work as a member of the Select Committee on Transport (1979-83) and Trade and Industry (from 1985 onwards). He played no small part in encouraging the then Northern Ireland Secretary, Tom King, to privatise the Harland and Wolff shipyard in 1989, thereby safeguarding its future. That made the closure of Cammell Laird in Birkenhead four years later all the more painful. Few had worked harder to prevent it.

He was rarely far from controversy. After ceasing to practise as a solicitor in 1979, he acquired a strange assortment of business interests which included directorships of various entertainment companies, including Leisure Investments, the owner of gambling clubs, which went bankrupt in 1989. As parliamentary adviser to the Hearing Aid Association, he was criticised for trying to delay a Bill curbing the sales techniques of hearing aid companies in February 1989. On the eve of a key Commons vote in November 1995 on the Nolan committee's recommendations regarding MPs' outside interests, he faced accusations (which he strongly denied) of arranging meetings with ministers in exchange for a fee.

Porter, a dark good-looking man with a rasping voice, and a chain-smoker, was often to be found on the golf course or at a rugby match (he was a keen rugby union supporter and continued to play the game himself until well into his thirties). In recent years Birkenhead, to which he was so deeply attached, saw much less of him because the family home passed into the possession of his wife when they separated in 1989 (though she remained his Commons secretary). Thereafter the conviviality, which was so marked a feature of his character, was displayed chiefly at Westminster, and particularly in its bars.

He married Susan Carolyn James in 1965. She survives him together with their two sons and three daughters.

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WANG LI

Wang Li, Chinese Communist activist during the Cultural Revolution, later imprisoned by Chairman Mao, died on October 21 aged 74. He was born in 1922.

RELEASED in 1982 from 15 years in Qincheng, Peking's notorious prison for the elite, Wang Li spent the rest of his life writing more than 100 petitions to the Communist Party's leaders protesting his devotion and insisting that his insider's view of China's Cultural Revolution could help to ensure that such a catastrophe would never recur.

Born into a landowning family in Jiangsu province, Wang joined the Communist party in 1939 during its darkest guerrilla days in the civil war and, like many well-off young intellectuals, he made a career in the propaganda network, a shelter from all but the most vigorous campaigns against those from suspect class backgrounds. His reputation as a loyal propagandist, regardless of the contortions of the party line, brought him eventually to the editorial staff of the magazine *Hong Qi* (Red Flag), which laid down correct ideological theory, and to the post of deputy director in the International Liaison Department.

It was because of this pliable and skilled loyalty that Mao appointed Wang to the leading group of the Cultural Revolution, on which, until she moved against him, he served with Jiang Qing, Mao's wife, and other figures just outside the party's central leadership. It was this group that began the purges of the "terrible decade," which convulsed China and brought low most of the top leaders and intellectuals, many of whom would be killed, commit suicide, or suffer, with their families, torture and exile.

Wang was remembered during this period by an American woman working in Peking as "stout in his khaki padded overcoat, his suave

bankerly appearance seeming strangely out of place amid the admiring swarms of excited Red Guards". After his release from prison, Wang claimed that Deng Xiaoping sought him out to draft the self-criticism which impressed Mao sufficiently to spare him from death and banish him to a remote province for many years. This is unlikely; there is no evidence that Mao spared anyone whom he intended to kill or to allow to die.

Wang never repented his actions during the Cultural Revolution. "I have no regrets," he was to say years



later. "I made mistakes. It was all right to make mistakes in those times as long as you corrected them." He said, too, that while Mao read everything before it was published and that he wrote to the Chairman's orders, "I, as a writer of those documents had major responsibilities for the mistakes".

But Wang's biggest mistake was the nearly fatal one of attracting Mao's anger. In the summer of 1967 he flew to the central industrial city of Wuhan at Mao's instruction to reconcile one of the bloody struggles then at its height between factions each claiming to be more purely Maoist than the other. At one point he was captured and finally released when the Prime Minister, Chou En-lai, alarmed because Mao was also visiting

Wuhan and might become embroiled in the violence, intervened. With a leg in plaster, Wang was greeted as a hero by most of the leadership at Peking's airport. But Li Zhi-sui, Mao's doctor and biographer, wrote that Mao said: "The trouble is that Wang Li provoked them into fighting."

Despite Wang's protests later in life that he had had nothing to do with violence, one of his fiery speeches incited Red Guards in August 1967, first to take over the Foreign Ministry and, on August 22, to set fire to the British Chancery. Mao, always keen to ensure that violence was kept within manageable bounds, ordered Wang's incarceration in Qincheng.

There he underwent one of the standard treatments for high-ranking targets of Mao's displeasure. In one of his memoirs he recalled: "They would force-feed you a kind of drug that induced hallucinations. I still remember Chairman Mao's Hunanese accent coming over the loudspeaker and announcing in a loud voice, 'In this movement nobody will be executed with the exception of Wang Li'. No matter how many times a day my execution was announced I would always shout, 'Long live Chairman Mao' and sing the *International*. Then the cancellation of my execution would be announced."

In 1984, two years after his release from 15 years of such ordeals, Wang wrote a letter to Deng Xiaoping and two other senior leaders, asking not to be expelled from the party. "I have grown to maturity through the party's nurturing since the age of 14. The party's loving kindness to me over the past 50 years remains forever engraved on my heart. Perhaps I can be of some use to the party if I am allowed to remain inside it to denounce myself by summing up the bitter negative experiences in which I took part."

He is survived by his wife Wang Pingshu, and by a daughter.



Wang (second from right) with Chou En-lai (left) and other leading Communists, 1967

SIR ERIC DRAKE

Sir Eric Drake, CBE, chairman of British Petroleum 1969-75, died on October 31 aged 85. He was born on November 29, 1910.

ALTHOUGH he certainly ranked as a captain of British industry, Eric Drake was never exactly a household name. This was, no doubt, partly because almost his whole career was devoted to BP, which he joined in 1935, the year after he had qualified as a chartered accountant. He became a main board director in 1958 and spent six years as deputy chairman before being elevated to the chairmanship in January 1969.

His coming to the top job coincided with a dramatic time for the oil industry. It fell to him to welcome the Queen to Aberdeen to inaugurate the Forth oilfield out in the North Sea, but there were awkward moments, too. In the autumn of 1973, in the wake of the Arab oil embargo, he found himself summoned to Chequers — along with the chairman of Shell — to confront the Prime Minister.

It appeared to Edward Heath that the problem of fuel shortages could be greatly alleviated if BP and Shell were



to maintain full deliveries to Britain, even though their own supplies had been sharply cut back by the oil-producing Arab countries. Drake boldly faced the intimidating task of explaining to the Prime Minister that the world of multinational companies did not work like that.

BP, he insisted, had to observe its commitments to other countries as well to Britain. It was not a popular message to a politically and economically beleaguered Prime Minister and it was perhaps as well for Drake — who had already had one sharp brush with the Chancellor, Tony Barber, at that year's Lord Mayor's Banquet — that

the Tory Government was out of office within three months.

The son of a doctor, Arthur Eric Courtney Drake was educated at Shrewsbury and Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he was a keen oarsman and read modern languages and law. He joined the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (as BP was then known) in 1935 and spent most of his early years in the Middle East, ultimately becoming general manager for Iran and Iraq (at the time one of the most sensitive and crucial jobs in the entire oil industry). Partly thanks to his efforts, BP survived the Mossadeq episode and it was, no doubt, in recognition of this that in January 1952 he was appointed CBE at the relatively early age of 41.

Later that same year he was sent to the United States as BP's North American representative. The fact that two of his predecessors in this post had gone on to become chairman suggested that within the company he had already been marked down as a high-flyer. He spent two happy years in New York before returning to Britain to head a newly created supply and development department, moving from there in 1957 to become a

director of BP Trading, the company's main subsidiary. Since he was only 46 at the time, this was good as ensured his ultimate ascent to the top. That came with his appointment as chairman in 1969, followed by his knighthood a year later.

If there was a surprise in Drake's career, it was perhaps that greater use was not made of his talents by outside bodies, especially in the years of his retirement when for five years he became deputy chairman of P&O. He held various ritual appointments — the presidency of the Chamber of Shipping, the committee of management of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, membership of the Royal Yacht Squadron, an Elder Brother of Trinity House — but he never emerged as a major force in the counsels of British industry. It may be that it was BP itself that was answerable for that. In its modern form it was certainly in part his creation but he, in turn, was perceived as an oilman through and through.

Eric Drake was twice married and is survived by his second wife Margaret, and by two daughters of his first marriage and two sons of his second.

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PROFESSOR GEORGE KUBLER

Professor George Kubler, art historian, died on October 3 aged 84. He was born on July 26, 1912.

GEORGE KUBLER was probably best known in Britain for his two magisterial volumes in the Pelican History of Art series: *Art and Architecture of Spain and Portugal and their American Dominions* (1959, with Martin Soria) and *Art and Architecture of Ancient America* (1962). But in the Americas he was also widely recognised as a pioneer in establishing prehispanic (or Pre-Columbian) art history as a respected discipline.

Pre-Columbian art, he suggested, is worthy of comparison with the achievements of European and Asian sculptors and painters. The department that Kubler helped to found at

Yale more than half a century ago remains one of the most important centres for art history in the United States, with Pre-Columbian and Pre-Raphaelite topics taught on an equal basis.

A Californian by birth, Kubler arrived at Yale as a freshman in 1929 and spent the rest of his life there, joining the faculty in 1938 and taking a doctorate in 1940 with a study of the Spanish religious architecture of New Mexico.

This unfashionable topic produced his first book the same year and led to *The Architecture of the 16th Century in Mexico*, published in 1948. He had by then been promoted directly from assistant to full professor.

During his career he explored the art and architecture of Iberia and America — much

of it little-known territory — in an impressive range of books, monographs and essays.

Among his more philosophical publications was *The Shape of Time: Remarks on the History of Things* (1962), which, while based on his Pre-Columbian work, raised the radical suggestion that "art can be expanded to embrace the whole range of man-made things" — a view that now finds fashionable acceptance.

His last book, *Esoteric Recognition of Ancient American Art*, begun in 1949 but published only in 1991, showed how the ancient arts of the Americas entered the mainstream of art history, an acceptance to which he had substantially contributed.

He leaves his widow, Elizabeth Bushnell Kubler, three daughters and a son.

Appointments

The Rev Robert Chavner, Priest-in-charge, St Luke, Sevenoaks (Kent); to be Vicar, St Luke, Sevenoaks (Kent).
The Rev John Clarke, Vicar, St Mary's, Battersea (Southwark); to be Principal, Ripon College, Cuddesdon.
The Rev David Collins, now Assistant Curate (NSM), St Boniface, Aachen, Belgium (Europe).
The Rev Paul Collins, Vicar, Brighton, Good Shepherd, Preston (Cheshire); to be Tutor in Liturgy, The Ecumenical Foundation for Theological Education at Queens' College, Birmingham.

